Hiſtory of Great Britain on a new Plan, may perhaps be thought neither partial nor confident; who ſays, in a letter to Mr Tytler, publiſhed in the volume of Tranſactions of the Antiquarian Society of Scotland, That he would be a bold man who ſhould now publiſh an hiſtory of Queen Mary, in the ſame ſtrain with the two hiſtorians, (Mr Hume and Dr Robertſon,) whoſe opinions on the ſubject the Enquiry had examined and controverted.

I cannot help obſerving, in juſtice to Mr Hume's impartiality, that no poſſible motive could be aſſigned for the prejudice which the favourers of Queen Mary have ſuppoſed him to entertain againſt her. As a party queſtion, in which view Mr Tytler has placed it in his Introduction to the latter editions of his work*, Mr Hume had ſurely no bias to miſlead him in the conſideration of it; and it is a circumſtance rather ſingular, at while he has generally been charged with *Toryiſm* by one party, he ſhould, on the other hand, be accuſed, by implication, of *Republicaniſm* in this queſtion on the hiſtory of the unfortunate Queen of Scots.

(*To be continued.*)

* "The character, accompliſhments, and misfortunes of this Princeſs, (ſays the Introduction), have been the ſubject of much writing and controverſy among the Britiſh hiſtorians. Republican writers, equally averſe to monarchy and to the Houſe of Stuart, have drawn her picture in the blackeſt colours, by traducing her as an accomplice with the Earl of Bothwell in the murder of the Lord Darnley her huſband. On the other hand, the writers attached to the ancient conſtitution of their country, and to the family of Stuart, have regarded that unfortunate Princeſs as one of the moſt virtuous and accompliſhed characters of that age, and as a victim to the ſecret conſpiracies carried on by ſome of the heads of the reformed party in her kingdom for her deſtruction."

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF PASSWAN OGLOU.

AS Passwan Oglou has of late acquired ſome celebrity, the following particulars of his Life and Character may not appear unintereſting:

Paſſwan Oglou was born at Widdin: he is a Greek by birth, but in his early youth he became a Muſſulman, and got himſelf enrolled amongſt the Janniſſaries, in which corps he obtained rapid advancements. He has the reputation of deep and various information: his character is marked with great and uncommon features, but eſpecially by inflexible firmneſs in all his reſolves; his firmneſs, however, is highly tempered with juſtice and humanity. He eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf, in the different poſts which he held at Conſtantinople and at Widdin, by an extreme ſimplicity in his manner of living, and by as ſtrong an averſion for ſumptuouſneſs and oſtentation. In a word, he is deſcribed as a philoſopher endowed with all the great qualities which are required of thoſe who are called to eminent ſituations. He is not as yet forty years of age.

During his campaign, which laſted nine or ten months, he experienced the extremes of good and ill fortune, and he comported himſelf in both with diſcretion. There is every reaſon to believe that his revolt was not at firſt directed againſt the Grand Seignior, but againſt ſome neighbouring Pachas; and that, in order to ſwell the number of his adherents, he pretended to aſſert and defend the rights of the Janniſſaries, but ended in proclaiming himſelf the Protector of the Liberties of the Greeks.

There can be little doubt, if Paſſwan Oglou had been able to maintain himſelf for any length of time in Macedonia, he would have brought about a revolution in that Province, and alſo in Albania and the Morea. He is ſaid now to have made his

peace with the Grand Seignior, and probably may be appointed as the military antagoniſt of Buonaparte. Thus we may ſee two men oppoſed to one another, though born at different ends of the world, yet ſimilar in their talents and fortunes; both men of ſtrong natural parts; both endued with a ſpirit of revolutionizing: both hitherto ſucceſsful; and both at a point of fame rarely the lot of men of their ages. For Buonaparte, to meet with ſuch a rival, after ſuch a ſhipwreck, bodes him no good.

PARALLEL BETWEEN ALEXANDER THE GREAT, AND BUONAPARTE.

THE *eclat* of modern Characters makes ſuch a forcible impreſſion on many minds, that they ſcarcely can find words to praiſe them, as they think, ſufficiently, or models in hiſtory to reach their ſimilitude. The rapidity of Buonaparte's victories, and the uncommon eccentricity of his mind, have brought him before the public eye as an object of much admiration; ſome, no doubt, led to this by the blaze of his general character, and others partly from the *cauſe* he eſpouſes; and in this enthuſiaſm of feeling, they will be ſatisfied with no leſs a man to compare him to, than *Alexander the Great*.

But they muſt be little acquainted with the character drawn of the Grecian hero by all his biographers, as well as very regardleſs of the principal and recent events of Buonaparte's life, to degrade the former by ſuch a compariſon; perhaps there is no feature in their characters will aſſimilate, ſave ambition—but Alexander's ambition was founded upon *heroic principles*, Buonaparte's upon *intrigue*, *diſſimulation*, *ingratitude*, and *perſonal vanity*.

The following exhibition of the leading traits of both Characters will beſt ſupport this opinion:

Alexander—*Fidelity* and *gratitude* were ſtrongly marked in Alexander. He not only rewarded theſe virtues in his own ſubjects, but practiſed them towards captive kings, often accompanied with a liberality that rendered their dominions more extenſive than they were before.

Buonaparte—Though educated in an academy at the *expence*, and under the direction, of Louis the Sixteenth; in the very ardour of youth (when the paſſions of *fidelity* and *gratitude* are generally at the flood), deſerted that maſter—purſued him to the ſcaffold, and turned his arms againſt the Religion and Laws of his country.

Alexander—When Alexander married *Roxana*; if he could not by the powers of perſuaſion, he could at leaſt by the force of arms, have made her his miſtreſs; yet he nobly abſtained from either duplicity or violence, and fought her affection only in an *honourable manner*. "This action," ſays Plutarch, "made even the barbarians love and confide in him more than ever, when they ſaw how continent he was; and that he forbore the only woman he ever was in love with, till he could enjoy her in a lawful and honourable way."

Buonaparte—Though an officer of ſome rank, and conſtantly had the words *honour* and *delicacy* in his mouth, married, in the prime of life, *the caſt off miſtreſs of Barras*, apparently upon no other principle but that baſe and ſordid one, of gaining promotion at the expence of his honour.

Alexander—In the career of Alexander's victories he held out no *promiſes* which he did not fulfil; nor oppreſſed the conquered after defeat, except attended with very particular and aggravating circumſtances. When he took Porus priſoner,

ſoner, after a hard fought battle, on the banks of the Hydaſpes, he aſked him how he liked to be treated? "Like a King!" replied Porus.—"And haſt thou nothing elſe to demand?" ſaid Alexander.—"No; in the word King every thing is comprehended." Alexander, ſo far from being offended with this frankneſs, ſuffered him to govern his own kingdom as his Lieutenant, and added to it ſeveral provinces, with a conſiderable number of villages.

Buonaparte—Though called by his partizans the Conqueror of Italy, may truly be called "The Betrayer and Plunderer of Italy;" ſo far from reſpecting Kings, the very name was an object of abuſe and extermination. Through all the ſtates which he paſſed, Liberty, Alliance, or an Amelioration of their former Governments, was the language of his Declarations and Manifeſtoes: but no ſooner were the people ſeduced by thoſe high ſounding phraſes, than their Governments became ſubject to the military deſpotiſm of his army, and their *exchequers* ſeized to carry on the ſyſtem of further Revolutionary Syſtems.

Alexander—Amongſt the various priſoners of war taken by this victorious Prince, none have been more the objects of hiſtory, nor has ſet his character in a more amiable light, than his conduct unto the unhappy Darius, and the females of his unfortunate family. When he firſt heard of the captivity of the latter, he immediately diſpatched one of his principal officers "to tell them Darius was not dead, and that they need not fear any ill uſage from Alexander; on the contrary, that they ſhould find themſelves as well provided as ever they were in Darius's moſt flouriſhing condition, when his empire was entire." He was as good as his word; he treated theſe illuſtrious priſoners according to their rank, their ſex, and virtues; gave them liberty to bury whom they pleaſed of the Perſians; alloted them what garments and furniture they thought proper, and allowed them larger penſions for their maintenance than ever they had before. He would not ſuffer them to hear, or receive, or even ſo much as apprehend any thing indecent, or to the prejudice of their honour; "ſo that they ſeemed rather lodged in ſome holy temple, where they enjoyed their privacy ſacred and uninterrupted, than in the camp of an enemy." Upon the capture and death of Darius, he behaved with the ſame dignity and humanity, taking off his own coat to cover the dead body, and afterwards embalming it, that it might be ſent to his mother with all the pomp and ceremony ſuitable to his high quality.

Buonaparte—What has been the conduct of Buonaparte to his late illuſtrious captive the Pope? When he firſt entered the Roman dominions, he addreſſed that unfortunate Pontiff, both in his letters and manifeſtoes, with all the appearance of a zealot warmly attached to the cauſe of religion, and the ſacred character of the Head of the Church. Having lulled him with this vile hypocriſy, he proceeded unmoleſted to Rome; where, under his direction, and by thoſe immediately under his command, the whole civil Government of the Capitol was overturned, by creating mock Conſuls, a Senate, &c. compoſed of French Republicans, under colour of reſtoring to the unhappy Romans the long loſt privileges of their original anceſtors. This mockery was ſcarcely eſtabliſhed, when he began by raiſing heavy contributions on the inhabitants of the whole province, then by baniſhing the Cardinals, and ſeizing upon their effects; and finally giving notice to the Pope, that he muſt quit his chair and dignity, with all his temporalities, in three days time. The very advanced age and blameleſs life of

this Pontiff, added to the very high reſpect paid by all Europe, for the ſpace of above fourteen centuries, to his ſacred office, one would think would arreſt the *ordinary plunderer* (for a few years, perhaps for a few months,) from ſuch groſs and unmanly inſult. No; a Government of *terror* and *plunder* was to be carried on, and Buonaparte, by his Generals, felt no difficulty in the execution. This venerable old man, dignified by the titles of a temporal Prince and Head of the Catholic Church, at the age of 82, and in the midſt of winter, was not only ſtripped of his all (even to the ring of St Peter which he wore on his finger as the ſymbol of his office), but obliged to make forced journies, to get out of his dominions as faſt as poſſible.

Alexander—Though no one knew the dignity of his high ſituation better than Alexander, in the midſt of his love of glory, and the purſuit of it, he ſhewed a ſolidity of judgment, and *temperance of expreſſion*, which highly redounded to his honour. He gave *no diſparaging account of his enemies, anticipated no victories*, nor *ſpoke of himſelf in high ſounding bombaſtical language!* If we except his calling himſelf the ſon of Jupiter (which perhaps was more on a political than a vain glorious principle), there are many traits of humility in his character very conſpicuous, ſuch as his reply to Diogenes the cynic, and the reproofs he ſubmitted to from his Generals and his confidants.

Buonaparte—Has been the *bombaſtical* herald of a *bombaſtical Government*; anticipating victories which he never obtained, or tried to obtain; now calling his armies, the *Armies of the Ocean*, the *Army of England*, the *Army of Ireland*, *&c. &c.* armies which he never led in perſon; and to the only place where others have *dared* to lead them, they have met with diſgrace and final overthrow. Even in his laſt diſpatches (perhaps the laſt that may be ever received from this braggart), and after one of the moſt deciſive defeats which any General ever experienced, he vauntingly exclaims "That fortune only changed, becauſe he had no farther occaſion for her ſervices."

Alexander—Always kept up the ceremonies of the religion he was bred in with punctuality and ſincerity himſelf, and made it reſpected by the whole of his armies.

Buonaparte—Has a very convenient religion and morality, ſuited to all ſituations and purpoſes. When he wanted to deceive the Pope, he was a *good Catholic*, and a *reſpecter of perſons*: when he had him in his power, he was a *heretic* and a *plunderer*: and now that he wants to deceive the Egyptians, he is a good *Muſſulman*, and is as piouſly engaged in celebrating their feſtes, as he was in celebrating maſſes in Italy. In ſhort, he is, in a corrupted ſenſe, "All things to all men:" money, and power, and dominion, are to be obtained; and if they cannot be obtained without *fraud*, *violence*, and *apoſtacy*, Buonaparte is not at all ſcrupulous about the means.

Alexander—This victorious Prince's expedition to India was principally with a view to extend the commerce of his dominions. From the wonderful efforts of the Tyrians in their own defence, when left without any ally or protector, he conceived an high opinion of the reſources of maritime power, and of the wealth to be derived from commerce, eſpecially that with India, which he found engroſſed by the citizens of Tyre. With a view to ſecure this commerce, and to eſtabliſh a ſtation for it, preferable in many reſpects to that of Tyre, as ſoon as he completed the conqueſt of Egypt, he founded a city near one of the mouths of the Nile, which he honoured with his own name; and with ſuch admirable diſcernment was the ſituation of it choſen, that Alexandria ſoon became the greateſt trading

ing city in the ancient world; and, notwithſtanding many revolutions in empire, continued, during eighteen centuries, to be the chief ſeat of commerce with India. As he puſhed forward into the country, though attended with a fleet and army which were invincible, he protected the rights and properties of the vanquiſhed, ſecured the rights of ſovereignty to moſt of the Princes, and only drew from this bold and magnificent deſign, that extenſion of commerce which he thought neceſſary for the ſupport and aggrandiſement of his other dominions.

Buonaparte—The original object of Buonaparte's expedition to Egypt, and ultimate deſign on India, was founded on *fraud* and *injuſtice*; indeed ſo much ſo, that even the violent and rapacious character of the Executive Directory of France, with his well known diſpoſitions as the engine of ſuch a Government, found it neceſſary to conceal this deſign under the maſk of hypocriſy. He therefor gave out, that the ſole object of this expedition was to chaſtiſe the Beys of Egypt, who were alike inimical to their Sovereign the Grand Seignior, and the French Government; and, under the greateſt profeſſions of friendſhip and ancient faith to the former, endeavoured to cajole him into a paſſive reliance on his promiſes. On his landing, his hypocriſy went ſtill further; he bowed to the religion of Mahomed, and he and his troops aſſiſted in the ceremonies of that Church. But the Grand Seignior was too well acquainted with the character of Buonaparte before, to ſuffer ſo *good-natured a friend* to put his country to ſuch an immenſe expence, and paſs over ſuch a tract of ocean, to chaſtiſe his enemies for him by proxy. He claimed that office, when he thought proper, for himſelf. He therefore has formed alliances of the ſtrongeſt kind, put his troops in motion, and called upon all his ſubjects to aſſiſt him in repelling ſo faithleſs and daring an invader.

Alexander—Soon after he reached the ocean, ſatisfied with having accompliſhed this arduous undertaking, led his army by land back to Perſia. The command of his fleet, with a conſiderable body of troops, he left to Nearchus, who, after a coaſting voyage of ſeven months, *conducted it ſafely up the Perſian Gulph into the Euphrates.*

Buonaparte—Had ſcarcely landed in Egypt, when his fleet, one of the greateſt and moſt powerful that perhaps was ever fitted out of France in the meridian glory of its Monarchy, was, by the commanding ſpirit, the vigilance, and dexterity, of Admiral Nelſon, and the brave men and officers under his command, entirely deſtroyed, and ſcarce a man left to report the diſgraceful tidings of their defeat. As to Buonaparte, inſtead of finding a friend in the Grand Seignior, he meets him as his profeſſed and declared enemy, ſurrounded by a moſt powerful alliance, whilſt he himſelf is in total want of all thoſe ſupports, which he had no leſs extravagantly than fraudulently expected from *freſh dupes*, and *the ſpirit of new intrigues*. When he will return to his own country, the book of fate has not as yet unfolded; but, judging from exiſting circumſtances, he is likely to pay the price of his *knavery* and *quixotiſm* in the very land which he ambitiouſly ſought to ſubdue.

To ſum up the two characters:—Alexander, it muſt be confeſſed, had a boundleſs ambition; but then it was blended with ſo many virtues, that they in a great meaſure palliated his luſt of dominion.

Buonaparte has a ſimilar ambition for conqueſt; but it is alternately effected like the conqueſts of the *hyæna* and *tyger*, by *diſſimulation* and *violence*.

ANEC-

ANECDOTES AND GLEANINGS.

From the Works of the late Earl of Orford.

Gibbon.

THE firſt volume of Gibbon's hiſtory is ſo highly finiſhed, that it reſembles a rich piece of painting in enamel. The ſecond and third volumes are of inferior compoſition. The three laſt ſeem to be in a medium, between the firſt volume and the two next.

Stupid ſtories.

A ſtupid ſtory, or idea, will ſometimes make one laugh more than wit. I was once removing from Berkeley Square to Strawberry Hill, and had ſent off all my books, when a meſſage unexpectedly arrived, which fixed me in town for that afternoon. What to do? I deſired my man to rummage for a book, and he brought me an old Grub-ſtreet thing from the garret. The author, in ſheep ignorance, not humour, diſcourſing of the difficulty of ſome purſuit, ſaid, that even if a man had as many lives as a cat, nay, as many lives as one Plutarch is ſaid to have had, he could not accompliſh it. This odd *quid pro quo* ſurprized me in vehement laughter.

Lady * * * is fond of ſtupid ſtories. She repeats one of a French ſcullion wench, who, on hearing the ſervants ſpeak of new moons, aſked gravely what became of all the old moons.

Miſs * * *, with a ſweet face, and innocent mouth, ſings *flaſh-ſongs*. The contraſt is irreſiſtible.

Walpole no author.

I do not look upon myſelf as an author. I may ſay, without the vain affectation of modeſty, that I have done nothing. My Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors, almoſt any bookſeller could have drawn up. My chief compilation, the Anecdotes of Painting in England, is Mr Vertue's work, not mine.

Vertue's manuſcripts were in great confuſion. I drew up an Index, and loſt it. Another ſuffered the ſame fate. I thought I was bewitched, and even trembled for the third.

Fox.

What a man Fox is! After his long and exhauſting ſpeech on Haſtings' trial, he was ſeen handing ladies into their coaches, with all the gaiety and prattle of an idle gallant.

Book-making.

Never was the noble art of book-making carried to ſuch high perfection, as at preſent. Theſe compilers ſeem to forget that people have libraries. One vamps up a new book of travels, conſiſting merely of diſguiſed extracts from former publications. Another fills his pages with Greek and Latin extracts from Ariſtotle and Quintilian. A third, if poſſible more inſipid, gives us long quotations from our poets, while a reference was enough, the books being in the hands of every body. Another treats us with old French *and* in maſquerade; and, by a ſingular fate, derives advantage from his very blunders, which make the things look new. Puh! I, and an amanuenſis, could ſcribble one of thoſe books in twenty-four hours.

Face-painting.

Lady Coventry, the celebrated beauty, killed herſelf with painting. She bedaubed herſelf with white, ſo as to ſtop the perſpiration. Lady Mary Wortley Montague was more prudent: ſhe went often into the hot bath, to ſcrape off the paint, which was almoſt as thick as plaſter on a wall.

Voltaire and Rolt.

Voltaire ſometimes fell into ſtrange miſtakes. One Rolt, an obſcure author, having publiſhed a hiſtory of the war of 1741, a ſubject alſo treated by the French philoſopher, Voltaire wrote to him the moſt fawning letters, ſtyling him the firſt hiſtorian of the age!

PER-

PEROUSE'S VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD.

(Continued from p. 36.)

CONTENTS.—Departure from Eaſter Iſland—Landing on the Iſland of Mowee—Invention of a Corn-mill on Board the Ships—Diſcovery of Port des Francais—Manners and Cuſtoms of the Inhabitants—Traffic with them—Melancholy Accident—Further Particulars of the Inhabitants.

AFTER the departure of the ſhips from Eaſter iſland, on the 10th of April 1786, they arrived at the Sandwich iſlands, and on the 21ſt of May landed a part of the crew on the iſland of Mowee. 'The reader, ſays M. Perouſe, 'ought not to expect in this work to find details of a people ſo well made known by the Engliſh narratives; theſe navigators paſſed four months in theſe iſlands, and our ſtay there was little more than a few hours.' Accordingly we find little of importance until, during their voyage in 34° north latitude, they were attacked by fogs, which obliged the commander to take every precaution againſt ſcorbutic diſorders. During the leiſure time they were out of ſight of land, the following ingenious expedient was hit upon. On the outfit for this voyage, it having been ſuggeſted that kiln-dried corn would keep much better than flour or biſcuit, a great quantity was taken on board. They were alſo furniſhed with mill-ſtones, twenty four inches in diameter, and four inches and a half thick; it required four men to put and keep them in motion. When they attempted to uſe them, however, the baker found that the grain was only broken, and not ground, and the whole day's labour of four men, relieved every half hour, produced no more than twenty-five pounds weight of this bad flour. As their corn formed nearly one half of their ſtore of proviſions, they would have been in the greateſt embarraſſment, but for the inventive genius of M. de Langle, who, aſſiſted by a ſailor that had formerly been a miller's boy, hit upon the ſcheme of adapting to their mill-ſtones the movement of a wind-mill: he firſt tried ſails to be turned by the wind, with ſome ſucceſs, but he ſoon ſubſtituted a handle inſtead of them; by this new method. flour as perfect as that from common mills was obtained, and they were every day able to grind two hundred weight of corn.

Paſſing over a ſeries of nautical obſervations, we come to the firſt real diſcovery made in this voyage, that of a bay or port which had never been diſcovered by any former navigators. It is ſituate thirty leagues to the north-weſt of that of Los Remedios, the extreme boundary of Spaniſh navigators, about two hundred and twenty-four leagues from Nootka, and a hundred from Prince William's Sound. To this place M. Perouſe gave the name of *Port des Francais*. They met with conſiderable difficulties in attempting to land, which at length were ſurmounted on the 14th of July. Their interview with the natives is thus related.

"During our ſtay at the entrance of the bay, we had been continually ſurrounded by the canoes of the Indians. In exchange for our iron, they offered us fiſh, ſkins of otters, and other animals, as well as different little articles of their dreſs; they had, to our great ſurpriſe, the appearance of being well accuſtomed to traffic, and made a bargain in favour of themſelves, with as much ability as the moſt experienced purchaſers of Europe. There was none of our articles of commerce for which they expreſſed ſo ardent a deſire as iron; they accepted alſo ſome beads, but it ſerved rather to finiſh a bargain than to form the baſis of an exchange. We prevailed with them in the end to receive plates and pewter pots; but theſe articles had only a tranſient ſucceſs, and iron prevailed over all. This metal

was by no means unknown to them; they had each of them a dagger of it hung from their neck; the form of this inſtrument reſembled that of the *creeſe* of the natives of Hindoſtan, but they bore not any reſemblance in the handle, which was no more than a lengthening of the blade rounded, and without an edge, this weapon was incloſed in a caſe of tanned leather, and it appeared to be the moſt valuable article in their poſſeſſion. Obſerving us to examine theſe daggers with great attention, they made ſigns to us, that they never uſed them but againſt bears, and other beaſts of the foreſts. Some of them were alſo made of copper, but they did not appear to prefer them to others. This laſt metal is common enough among them, they more particularly uſe it for collars, bracelets, and different other ornaments; they alſo tip the points of their arrows with it.

"It was a great queſtion among us where theſe metals came from. The copper might be ſuppoſed to exiſt native in this part of America, and the Indians might be able to reduce it into blades or ingots, but native iron does not, in all likelihood, exiſt in nature; or at leaſt ſo rarely, that very few mineralogiſts have ever ſeen it. It cannot be admitted that theſe people knew the method of reducing the ores of iron to the ſtate of metal; beſides, we ſaw on the day of our arrival poliſhed collars, and ſome little articles of braſs, which is well known to be a compoſition of copper and zink: thus every thing we had ſeen induced us to think, that the metals we had met with came from the Ruſſians, or the factors for the Hudſon's Bay company, or from the American traders who travelled into the interior of America, or even from the Spaniards; but I ſhall hereafter make it appear, that it is moſt probable they procured theſe metals from the Ruſſians. We brought away a great many ſpecimens of this iron; it is as ſoft and as eaſy to cut as lead, and perhaps it is not impoſſible for mineralogiſts to point out the country and the mine which produced it.

"The love of gold is not more prevalent in Europe than that of iron in this part of America, which is a ſtrong additional proof of the ſcarcity of this metal: every iſlander poſſeſſes ſome of it, to ſay the truth, a ſmall quantity; but they are ſo avaricious of it, that they will leave no ſtone unturned to procure it." On the day of our arrival we were viſited by the chief of the principal village.

Before he came on board he ſeemed to addreſs a prayer to the ſun; he afterward made us a long ſpeech, which was terminated by ſome very agreeable ſongs, that bore a ſtrong reſemblance to the plain-ſong of our churches; the Indians of his canoe accompanied him by repeating the ſame air in chorus. After this ceremony, they almoſt all of them came on board, and during the ſpace of an hour danced to the ſound of their own voices, which was very much in tune. I made the chief ſeveral preſents, which rendered him ſo troubleſome, that he every day paſſed five or ſix hours on board, and I was obliged to renew them very frequently, or elſe he went away diſcontented, and muttering threats, which however were not very dangerous. As ſoon as we had eſtabliſhed ourſelves upon the iſland, almoſt all the Indians of the bay repaired thither. The report of our arrival had ſpread itſelf to the adjacent parts; we ſaw the arrival of ſeveral canoes filled with a very conſiderable quantity of otters ſkins, which theſe Indians bartered for hatchets, knives, and bar iron. They gave us their ſalmon for pieces of old hoops; but they ſoon became more knowing, and we afterward could not procure this fiſh except for nails, and other ſmall pieces of iron. I believe there is not any country where the ſea otter is more common than in this

part

part of America, and I ſhould not be much ſurpriſed if a factory, which would extend its commerce only forty or fifty leagues along the ſea ſhore, ſhould annually collect ten thouſand ſkins of this animal. M. Rollin, ſurgeon-major of my frigate, ſkinned, diſſected, and ſtuffed with his own hands the only otter which we were able to procure; unfortunately it was not more than four or five months old, and its weight not more than eight pounds and a half. The Aſtrolabe caught one, which had without doubt eſcaped from the Indians, for it was ſorely wounded. It ſeemed to have attained its full growth, and weighed at leaſt ſeventy pounds. M. de Langle cauſed it to be ſkinned, in order to ſtuff it, but as the order was given at the moment of our entrance into the bay, this work was not attended to, and we could not preſerve either the head or jaw.

The ſea otter is an amphibious animal, better known from the beauty of its ſkin, than from the exact deſcription of the animal itſelf. The Indians of Port des Francais call it *ſkeeter*; the Ruſſians give it the name of *colny morſky*, and diſtinguiſh the female by the word *moſka*. Some naturaliſts have ſpoken of it under the denomination of *ſaricovienne*; but the deſcription of the ſaricovienne by M. Buffon in no reſpect anſwers to this animal, which neither reſembles the otter of Canada, nor that of Europe.

On the day of our arrival at the ſecond anchorage, we eſtabliſhed the obſervatory upon an iſland which was only a muſket ſhot from the ſhip; here we formed a ſettlement for the time of our ſtay in this port; we pitched tents for our ſailmakers and ſmiths, and we here depoſited the caſks from our hold, which we entirely ſet up again. As all the Indian villages were on the continent, we flattered ourſelves with being in a ſtate of ſecurity upon our iſland, but we were ſoon convinced of the contrary. We had already experienced that the Indians are great thieves, but we did not ſuppoſe them to be poſſeſſed of an activity and obſtinacy capable of carrying into execution the longeſt and moſt difficult projects; we were ſoon taught to know them better. They paſſed every night in watching the moſt favourable opportunity to rob us, but we kept a good guard on board our ſhips, and they ſeldom deceived our vigilance. I had beſide eſtabliſhed the Spartan law; the perſon robbed was puniſhed, and if we did not applaud the robber, we at leaſt reclaimed nothing, in order to avoid every quarrel, that might be attended with melancholy conſequences. I do not diſſemble, that this extreme lenity rendered them inſolent; I had however endeavoured to convince them of the ſuperiority of our arms; a cannon, with ball, had been diſcharged in their preſence, for the purpoſe of letting them ſee that they could be reached at a diſtance; and a muſquet, loaded with ball, had, in the preſence of a great number of theſe Indians, penetrated through ſeveral doubles of a cuiraſs which they had ſold to us, after having made us underſtand, by ſigns, that it was impenetrable to arrows and daggers; beſides, our moſt expert marksmen killed the birds flying over their heads. I am very certain they never thought of inſpiring us with ſentiments of fear, but I have been convinced by their conduct, they imagined our patience to be inexhauſtible: they ſoon compelled me to take away the ſettlement I had made upon the iſland; they diſembarked there in the night from the ſide of the coaſt; they traverſed a very thick wood, which was totally impervious to the day, and gliding upon their bellies like adders, almoſt without ſtirring a leaf, they contrived, in ſpite of our ſentinels, to carry off ſome of our effects; in a word, they had the addreſs to introduce themſelves into

the tent where Meſſrs de Lauriſton and Darbaud, who were the guard of the obſervatory ſlept; they took away a muſket, ornamented with ſilver, as well as the clothes of the two officers, who by way of precaution, had placed them under their bolſter; they were unperceived by a guard of twelve ſoldiers, and they never once awakened the two officers. This laſt theft would have given us but little diſquiet, but for the loſs of the original memorandum book, in which was written all our aſtronomical obſervations ſince we had arrived in Port des Francais.

Theſe obſtructions did not prevent our boats from taking in wood and water; all our officers were without intermiſſion employed at the head of different working parties, which we were under the neceſſity of ſending on ſhore; their appearance and good diſcipline kept the Indians in awe.

While we made the moſt ſpeedy preparations for our departure, Meſſrs de Monneron and Bernizet ſurveyed the bay in a boat, well armed. I had it not in my power to order any of the officers to accompamy them, becauſe they were all employed, but I had reſolved that theſe laſt, before their departure, ſhould verify the bearings of all the points, and lay down all the ſoundings. We then propoſed to dedicate twenty-four hours to the hunting of bears, whoſe tracks we had perceived in the mountains, and immediately afterward to take our departure, the advanced ſeaſon not allowing us a longer ſtay.

We had already viſited the bottom of the bay, which is perhaps the moſt extraordinary place in the world. To form a conception of it, let us ſuppoſe a baſon of water of a depth in the middle that could not be fathomed, bordered by peaked mountains, of an exceſſive height, covered with ſnow, without a blade of graſs upon this immenſe collection of rocks, condemned by nature to perpetual ſterility. I never ſaw a breath of air ruffle the ſurface of this water; it is never troubled but by the fall of enormous pieces of ice which continually detach themſelves from five different glaciers, and which in falling make a noiſe that reſounds far in the mountains. The air is in this place ſo very calm, and the ſilence ſo profound, that the mere voice of a man may be heard half a league off, as well as the noiſe of ſome ſea birds which lay their eggs in the cavities of theſe rocks. It was at the extremity of this bay, that we were in hopes of finding channels, by which we might penetrate into the interior of America. We imagined, that it might terminate in a great river, the courſe of which might lie between two mountains, and that this river might take its ſource in the great lakes to the northward of Canada. Such was our ſuppoſition, and here follows the reſult of it: we departed with the two long boats of the Bouſſole and Aſtrolabe. Meſſrs de Monti, de Marchainville, de Boutervilliers, and father Receveur, accompanied M. de Langle; with me went Meſſrs Dagelet, Boutin, Saint-Ceran, Duche, and Prevoſt. We entered the weſt channel; prudence required us not to keep too cloſe to the ſhore, for fear of the fall of ſtones and ice. At length we arrived, after having proceeded only a league and a half, at a narrow gulph, terminated by two immenſe glaciers; we were under the neceſſity of puſhing away the pieces of ice with which the ſea was covered, in order to penetrate into this hollow: the water was ſo deep, that at half a cable's length from the land, I did not find bottom with a hundred and twenty fathoms. Meſſrs de Langle, de Monti, and Dagelet, as well as ſeveral other officers, had a deſire to climb up the glacier; with inexpreſſible fatigue they attained the diſtance of about two leagues; after being obliged, at great riſk, to leap over clefts of very great depth, they were not able to deſcry any thing but a continuation of

glaciers

glaciers and snow, which seemed to have no termination but at the summit of Mount Fair Weather.

During this cruise my boat remained upon the shore; a piece of ice, that fell into the water at more than four hundred toises distance, occasioned along the sea shore so considerable an undulation, that she was overset, and thrown a good way upon the edge of the glacier; this accident was soon repaired, and we all returned on board, having in a few hours completed our voyage into the interior of America. I had dispatched Messrs Monneron and Bernizet to visit the eastern channel, which, like the other, was terminated by two glaciers.

The day after this excursion the chief came on board, better attended and much more dressed than common; after a great many songs and dances, he made a proposal to sell me the island on which we had placed our observatory, reserving, no doubt, to himself and the other Indians the right of robbing us. It was somewhat more than doubtful whether this chief had a property in any land, the government of these people is such, that the country might belong to the whole society: however, as a great many Indians were witnesses to this bargain, I had an undoubted right to conclude that they gave their sanction to it, and I accepted the chief's offer; convinced at the same time that the contract for this purchase might be set aside by many tribunals, if the nation should ever contest it with us; for we had no proof that the chief was the real proprietor, and the witnesses his representatives. Be that as it may, I gave him several ells of red cloth, hatchets, knives, bar-iron, and nails; I also made presents to all his suite. The bargain being thus concluded, I sent to take possession of the island with the customary formalities. I ordered them to bury a bottle at the foot of a rock, which contained an inscription adapted to this taking possession, and I laid near it one of the bronze medals which had been struck in France before our departure.

The principal work, however, which had been the peculiar object of our stopping here, was finished; our guns were mounted, our stowage completed, and we had taken in as great a quantity of wood and water as at our departure from Chili. No port in the universe could furnish more conveniencies for expediting this labour, which is frequently so difficult in other countries. Cascades, as I have already mentioned, falling from the top of the mountains, poured the clearest water into the casks as they lay in the longboat; drift wood in great abundance is scattered along the shore of a smooth sea. The survey of Messrs de Monneron and Bernizet was finished, as well as the measurement of a base taken by M. Blondela, which had enabled M. de Langle, M. Dagelet, and a great number of other officers, to measure trigonometrically the height of the mountains. We had only to regret the loss of the memorandum book of observations by M. Dagelet, and this misfortune was nearly done away by the different notes which had been found again; in a word, we esteemed ourselves the most fortunate of navigators, in having arrived at so great a distance from Europe without having a single person sick, or one man of the two ships' companies afflicted with the scurvy.

Previous to their leaving this port, a melancholy accident happened to them. Two of their boats, which some officers and seamen, in all twenty, who had gone out to make soundings, &c. were lost. This calamity M. Perouse dwells upon with great feeling. The narrative recommences with farther particulars of the natives, and an inscription, which we shall copy in the author's own words:

"Nothing more now remained to be done, but to quit, as speedily as possible, a country where we had experienced

enced so melancholy a disaster; but there were still some days due to the families of our unfortunate friends: too precipitate a departure might occasion doubts and uneasiness in Europe; it might not occur to people there, that the current extended no farther than a league without the channel; that the boats, and those wrecked in them, could be driven to no greater distance, and that the fury of the sea in that place dissipated every hope of their return. If, contrary to every probability, any of them had been able to return, as this could only happen in the vicinity of the bay, I formed the resolution of waiting some days longer; but I quitted the anchorage of the island, and took that of the bed of sand, which is at the entrance upon the west coast. It took me five days to effect this passage, though no more than a league, during which time we were exposed to a squall of wind which would have put us in very great danger, had we not been anchored in a good muddy bottom: it was fortunate we did not drag our anchors, for we were less than a cable's length from the shore. The wind being contrary detained us longer than I intended to stay, and we did not sail till the 30th of July, eighteen days after the event, the description of which has given me so much pain, and the remembrance of which will perpetually make me unhappy. Before our departure, we erected upon the island in the middle of the bay, to which I gave the name of Cenotaph Island, a monument to the memory of our unfortunate companions. The following inscription was composed by M. de Lamanon, who buried it in a bottle at the foot of the monument:

At the entrance of this harbour, perished
twenty brave seamen.
Reader, whoever thou art, join thy tears
to ours.

"On the 14th of July 1786, the frigates Boussole and Astrolabe, which sailed from Brest, the 1st of August 1785, arrived in this port. From the care of M. de la Perouse, commander in chief of the expedition, of the viscount de Langle, commander of the second frigate, of Messrs Clonard and de Monti, second Captains of the two ships, and of the other officers and surgeons, none of the diseases which are incident to long voyages had afflicted our ships' companies; M. de la Perouse found himself happy in the reflection, as did all the others likewise, of having been from one end of the world to the other, through every kind of danger, and of having visited people reputed to be barbarous, without losing a single man, or shedding a drop of blood. On the 13th of July, at five o'clock in the morning, three boats set off for the purpose of laying down the soundings, upon the draught which had been made of the bay. They were commanded by M. d'Escures, lieutenant of the navy, and a chevalier of St Louis: M. de la Perouse had given him instructions in writing, which expressly charged him not to approach the current, but at the moment he conceived himself at a sufficient distance from it, he found himself drawn in by it. Messrs de la Borde, brothers, and de Flassan, who were in the boat of the second frigate, were not afraid of exposing themselves to danger, by flying to the assistance of their companions, but they, alas! shared the same unhappy fate. The third boat was under the orders of M. Boutin, lieutenant of the navy. This officer, contending with courage against the breakers during the space of several hours, made the most vigorous but useless exertions to assist his friends, and was only indebted for his own safety to the superior construction of his boat, to his own enlightened prudence, joined with that of M. Laprise Mouton, lieutenant of the frigate, his second in command, and to the activity and ready obedience of the crew, consisting of Jean Marie, cockswain, Lhostis, le Bas, Corentin Jers, and Moners,

Moners, all four ſailors. The Indians ſeemed to participate in our ſorrows, which were extreme. Moved, but not diſcouraged by our misfortunes, we ſailed the 30th of July, to continue our voyage."

We procured, by our ſtay at the entrance of the bay, infinitely more knowledge of the manners and cuſtoms of the Indians, than we could poſſibly have obtained at the other anchorage. Our ſhips lay at anchor near their villages; we every day made them viſits, and every day we had cauſe of complaint againſt them; though our conduct toward them had never varied, and we had never ceaſed giving them proofs of our mildneſs and benevolence.

On the 22d of July, they brought us ſome pieces of the wreck of our boats, which the ſea had driven upon the eaſtern coaſt, very near the bay, and by ſigns they gave us to underſtand, they had burried one of our unfortunate companions upon the ſhore where he had been caſt by the billows. Upon theſe ſigns Meſſrs de Clonard, de Monneron, and de Monti immediately directed their courſe toward the eaſt, accompanied by theſe ſame Indians, whom we loaded with preſents.

Our officers proceeded three leagues over ſtones, in a frightful road; every half hour the guides required a new payment, or they refuſed to go farther; at length they puſhed into the woods, and took to their heels. Our officers, too late, perceived that their report was only a trick invented to obtain ſtill more preſents. They ſaw in this journey immenſe foreſts of firtrees of the largeſt dimenſions; they meaſured ſome of them, which were five feet diameter, and which ſeemed to be more than a hundred and forty feet high.

We were by no means ſurpriſed at the recital they gave of the manœuvre of the Indians; their addreſs in dealing is incomparable. Meſſrs de Langle and Lamanon, with ſeveral officers and naturaliſts, had, two days previous to this, made a journey to the weſtward, the object of which equally related to theſe melancholy reſearches: it was juſt as fruitleſs as the other; but they met with a village of Indians, upon the banks of a ſmall river entirely barred with ſtakes for a ſalmon fiſhery. We had long entertained ſuſpicions, that this fiſh came from that part of the coaſt, but we were not certain of it, and this diſcovery ſatisfied our curioſity. The ſalmon, aſcending the river, meet with the ſtakes, which not being able to leap over, they endeavour to return toward the ſea, and find in their paſſage narrow baſkets, cloſed at the farther end, and placed in the angles of the cauſeway; having entered theſe baſkets, and not being able to return, they are taken. Theſe fiſh are ſo abundant that the crews of the two ſhips, during our ſtay, took a vaſt quantity of them, and each frigate ſalted two barrels.

Our travellers alſo met with a morai, which proved to them, that theſe Indians were in the habit of burning their dead, and preſerving the head; they found one of them wrapped up in ſeveral ſkins. This monument conſiſts of four tolerably ſtrong ſtakes, which ſupport a little wooden chamber, in which repoſe the aſhes depoſited in coffins; they opened theſe coffins, untied the packet of ſkins which enveloped the head, and after having ſatisfied their curioſity, they ſcrupuloſly replaced every thing; and added to it a great many preſents of different kinds of iron inſtruments and beads. The Indians, who were witneſſes of this viſit, diſcovered a little uneaſineſs; but they did not fail very ſpeedily to take away the preſents left by our travellers. Others who were curious, having the next day viſited the ſame place, found there only the aſhes and the head: they left there new preſents, which ſhared the

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ſame fate as thoſe of the preceding day; and I am certain, that the Indians would have been very glad, had we repeated our viſits ſeveral times in the day. But if they, with ſome reluctance, permitted us to viſit their tombs, it was not the ſame in regard to their cabins, which they would not ſuffer us to approach till they had previouſly removed their women, who are the moſt diſguſting objects in the univerſe.

We were witneſſes every day to the entrance of ſtrange canoes into the bay, and every day whole villages went out of it, and yielded their places to others. Theſe Indians ſeem to entertain very great dread of the channel, and never ventured in it but at ſlack water: by the aſſiſtance of our glaſſes we diſtinctly perceived, that when they were between the two points, the chief, or at leaſt the moſt conſiderable man of the party roſe up, extended his arms toward the ſun, and appeared to addreſs prayers to it, while all the others paddled with their whole ſtrength. It was in conſequence of aſking the meaning of this cuſtom, that we were informed, that ſome little time before ſeven large canoes had been loſt there; the eighth was ſaved: the Indians who eſcaped this misfortune conſecrated it either to their god, or to the memory of their companions; we ſaw it by the ſide of a morai, which no doubt contained the aſhes of ſome of thoſe who were caſt away.

This canoe did not reſemble thoſe of the country, which are formed only of a hollowed tree, raiſed at the ſides by planks ſewed to the bottom; this had timbers and wales like our boats; the wood-work, which was very well executed, had a covering of ſeals' ſkin, which ſerved it as a ſheathing, ſo perfectly ſewn together, that the beſt workmen in Europe would find great difficulty to imitate the work. This covering, which we meaſured with the greateſt attention, was depoſited in the morai by the ſide of the coffins with the aſhes; and the wood-work of the canoe, raiſed upon ſtocks, remained bare near this monument.

I had a great deſire to bring this covering to Europe; we were abſolutely in poſſeſſion of it; this part of the bay not being inhabited, no Indian could throw any impediment in our way; I was perſuaded, beſides, that thoſe who were caſt away were ſtrangers; but there exiſts an univerſal religion in favour of the aſylums of the dead, and I was deſirous theſe might be reſpected. At length, on the 30th of July, at four o'clock in the afternoon, we got under way with a very light breeze from the weſt, which did not ceaſe till we had gained three leagues offing: the horizon was ſo clear that we perceived and ſet Mount Saint-Elias, bearing north-weſt, diſtant at leaſt forty leagues. At eight o'clock in the evening, I was three leagues to the ſouthward of the bay, and ſounded in ninety fathoms water, over a muddy bottom.

(To be continued.)

SINGULAR AND EXTRAORDINARY CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES OF THE HINDOOS.

(Concluded from p. 17.)

THAT the practice of infanticide ſhould ever be ſo general as to become a cuſtom with any ſect or race of people, requires the moſt unexceptionable evidence to gain belief; and I am ſorry to ſay that the general practice, as far as regards female infants, is fully ſubſtantiated with reſpect to a particular tribe on the frontiers of Juanpore: a diſtrict of the province of Benares, adjoining to the country of Oude. A race of Hindoos, called Kalekoomars, reſide here; and it was diſcovered in 1789 only, that the cuſtom of putting to death their female offspring, by cauſing the mothers

to

to ſtarve them, had long ſubſiſted, and did actually then very generally prevail among them. The reſident at Benares, in a circuit which he made through the country, where the rajekoomars dwell, had an opportunity of authenticating the exiſtence of the cuſtom from their own confeſſions: he converſed with ſeveral; all unequivocally admitted it, but all did not fully acknowledge its atrocity, and the only reaſon which they aſſigned for the inhuman practice, was the great expence of procuring ſuitable matches for their daughters, if they allowed them to grow up. It is ſome ſatisfaction to add, that the cuſtom, though general, was not univerſal, as natural affection, or ſome other motive, had induced the fathers of ſome rajekoomar families to bring up one or more of their female iſſue; but the inſtances where more than one daughter had been ſpared, were very rare. One village only furniſhed a complete exception to the general cuſtom; and the rajekoomar informant, who noticed it, ſuppoſed that the inhabitants had ſworn, or ſolemnly pledged themſelves to each other, to bring up their females. In proof of his aſſertion in favour of the village in queſtion, he added, that ſeveral old maids of the rajekoomar tribe then actually exiſted there, and that their celibacy proceeded from the difficulty of procuring huſbands for them, in conſequence of the great expences attending the marriages of this claſs of people.

It will naturally occur to the ſociety to aſk, by what mode a race of men could be continued under the exiſtence of the horrid cuſtom which I have deſcribed. To this my documents enable me to reply, partly from the exceptions to the general cuſtom, which were occaſionally admitted by the more wealthy rajekoomars; more particularly thoſe who happened to have no male iſſue: but chiefly by intermarriages with other rajepoot families, to which the rajekoomars were compelled by neceſſity.

A prohibition enforced by the denunciation of the ſevereſt temporal penalties, would have little efficacy in aboliſhing a cuſtom which exiſted in oppoſition to the feelings of humanity and natural affection; and the ſanction of that religion which the rajekoomars profeſſed was appealed to, in aid of the ordinances of civil authority. Upon this principle an engagement, binding themſelves to deſiſt in future from the barbarous practice of cauſing the death of their female children, was prepared, and circulated among the rajekoomars for their ſignature; and as it was alſo diſcovered that the ſame cuſtom prevailed, though in a leſs degree, among a ſimilar tribe of people alſo, within the province of Benares, called rajebunſes, meaſures were adopted at the ſame time to make them ſenſible of its iniquity, and to procure from them a ſubſcription ſimilar to that exacted from the rajekoomars.

The following is a copy of the engagement which the latter ſubſcribed:

"Whereas, it hath become known to the government of the honourable Eaſt India company, that we of the tribe of rajekoomars do not ſuffer our female children to live; and whereas this is a great crime, as mentioned in the *Brehma Byvant Pooran* *, where it is ſaid that killing even a *fœtus* is as criminal as killing a brahmen; and that for killing a female, or woman, the puniſhment is to ſuffer in the *rerk*, or hell, called *Kut Shootul*, for as many years as there are hairs on that female's body, and that afterward that perſon ſhall be born again, and ſucceſſively become a leper, and be afflicted with the *jukhima*: and whereas the Britiſh government in India, whoſe ſubjects we are, have an utter deteſtation of ſuch murderous practices, and we do ourſelves acknowledge, that although cuſtomary among us, they

* Their ſacred hiſtory.

are highly ſinful, we do therefore hereby agree not to commit any longer ſuch deteſtable acts; and any among us (which God forbid) who ſhall be hereafter guilty thereof, or ſhall not bring up and get our daughters married, to the beſt of our abilities, among thoſe of our caſt, ſhall be expelled from our tribe, and ſhall neither eat, nor keep ſociety with us, beſide ſuffering hereafter the puniſhments denounced in the above pooran and ſhaſter †. We have therefore entered into this agreement. Dated the 17th of December 1789."

A record of the various ſuperſtitious ceremonies which prevail throughout Hindooſtan, would form a large and curious volume; but as all the preceding inſtances which I have related, are taken from tranſactions in Benares, I cannot refrain from mentioning the ſuperſtitious notions of the people of that province regarding the ſugar-cane: which proves an ignorance that may be admitted in palliation of groſſer errors. The narrative is a mere extract from an official record, with an omiſſion of ſome words, and ſome trifling verbal alterations.

As it is uſual with the ryots, or huſbandmen, to reſerve a certain portion of the canes of the preceding year to ſerve as plants for their new cultivation, it very frequently happens that inconſiderable portions of the old cane remain unappropriated. Whenever this happens, the proprietor repairs to the ſpot on the 25th of Jeyte, or about the 11th of June, and having ſacrificed to *Nagleh*, or the tutelar deity of the cane, he immediately ſets fire to the whole, and is exceedingly careful to have this operation executed in as complete and efficacious a manner as poſſible.

This act is performed from an apprehenſion, that if the old canes were allowed to remain in the ground beyond the 25th of Jeyte, they would in all probability produce flowers and ſeeds; and the appearance of thoſe flowers they conſider as one of the greateſt misfortunes that can befal them.

They unanimouſly aſſert, that if the proprietor of a plantation ever happens to view even a ſingle cane therein, in flower, after the 25th of Jeyte, the greateſt calamities will befal himſelf, his parents, his children, and his property; in ſhort, that death will ſweep away moſt of the members, or indeed the whole of his family, within a ſhort period after this unfortunate ſpectacle. If the proprietor's ſervant happens to ſee the flower, and immediately pulls it from the ſtalk, buries it in the earth, and never reveals the circumſtance to his maſter; in this caſe they believe that it will not be productive of any evil conſequence. But ſhould the matter reach the proprietor's knowledge, the calamities before ſtated muſt, according to the prevailing ideas, infallibly happen.

In ſupport of this belief, many of the moſt aged zemindars and ryots in the province of Benares, recited ſeveral inſtances of the above nature, which they affirmed to have actually happened during their own time; and moreover, that they had been perſonal witneſſes to the evils and misfortunes which befell the unhappy victims of the deſcription alluded to.

When we reflect how generally credit was given to the power of witchcraft, long after the revival of letters in Europe, and that names of great repute for learning and abilities are found among its defenders, we ſhall not be ſurpriſed that charms and amulets are worn in this country by men of ſuperior rank and education; that aſtrologers are conſulted to name the fortunate hour for commencing a journey or expedition, and that the faſcinating influence of any evil eye upon the human conſtitution, as well as the power of witchcraft, is admitted by the vulgar in general. Fortunately, however, the practice is not ſuppoſed to bear any proportion to the belief

† Their Bible

belief of the power; although two recent inſtances occur to my recollection of individuals having been ſacrificed to this popular deluſion; or at leaſt the imputation of witchcraft was made the pretence for depriving them of life.

But the judicial records contain a caſe of great enormity, in which five women were put to death for the ſuppoſed practice of ſorcery. I ſhall ſubmit the circumſtances of this tranſaction, with ſome detail before the Society, premiſing that it happened in a diſtrict of Ramgur, the leaſt civilized part of the company's poſſeſſions, among a wild and unlettered tribe, denominated Soontaar, who have reduced the detection and trial of perſons ſuſpected of witchcraft to a ſyſtem.

Three men of the caſt of Soontaar, were, in the year 1792, indicted for the murder of five women; the priſoners without heſitation confeſſed the crime with which they were charged, and pleaded in their defence, that with their tribes it was the immemorial practice and cuſtom to try perſons notorious for witchcraft. That for this purpoſe an aſſembly was convened of thoſe of the ſame tribe, from far and near, and if, after due inveſtigation, the charge was proved, the ſorcerers were put to death, and no complaint was ever preferred on this account to the ruling power. That the women who were killed had undergone the preſcribed form of trial, were duly convicted of cauſing the death of the ſon of one of the priſoners by witchcraft, and had been put to death by the priſoners, in conformity to the ſentence of the aſſembly.

The proſecutors, who, agreeably to the forms of the Mahommedan law, were the relations of the deceaſed women, declared they had no charge to prefer againſt the priſoners, being ſatisfied that their relations had really practiſed ſorcery. The cuſtom pleaded by the priſoners was fully ſubſtantiated by the teſtimony of a great number of witneſſes, who recited ſpecific facts in ſupport of it, without any denial or diſagreement; and from the collective evidence exhibited in the courſe of the enquiry, the following curious and extraordinary circumſtances appeared.

That the ſucceſſive demiſe of three or four young people in a village, led to a ſuſpicion of ſorcery as the cauſe of it; and the inhabitants taking the alarm, were upon the watch to detect the witches. They were generally diſcovered dancing naked at midnight by the light of a lamp, with a broom tied round their waiſts, either near the houſe of a ſick perſon, or on the outſide of a village.

To aſcertain with a greater degree of certainty the perſons guilty of practiſing witchcraft, the three following modes are adopted: Firſt, Branches of the Saul tree, marked with the names of all the females of the village, whether married or unmarried, who have attained the age of twelve years, are planted in the water in the morning, for the ſpace of four hours and a half; and the withering of theſe branches is proof of witchcraft againſt the perſon whoſe name is annexed to it. Secondly, Small portions of rice enveloped in cloths, marked as above, are placed in a neſt of white ants; the conſumption of the rice in any of the bags, eſtabliſhes ſorcery againſt the woman whoſe name it bears. Thirdly, Lamps are lighted at night, water is placed in cups made of leaves, and muſtard-ſeed and oil is poured, drop by drop, into the water, while the name of each woman in the village is pronounced; the appearance of the ſhadow of any woman on the water, during this ceremony, proves her a witch.

Such are the general rules for aſcertaining thoſe who practiſe witchcraft. In the inſtances which I have quoted, the witneſſes ſwore, and probably believed, that all the proofs a-

gainſt the unfortunate women had been duly verified: they aſſert in evidence, that the branches marked with the names of the five women accuſed were withered: that the rice in the bags having their ſpecific names, was devoured by the white ants, while that in the other bags remained untouched: that their ſhadows appeared on the water, on the oil being poured upon it while their names were pronounced: and farther, that they were ſeen dancing at midnight in the ſituation above deſcribed.

It is difficult to conceive that this coincidence of proof could have been made plauſible to the groſſeſt ignorance, if experience did not ſhew that prepoſſeſſion will ſupercede the evidence of the ſenſes.

The following cuſtom would be too trivial for notice, if it were not ſtrongly deſcriptive of the ſimplicity and ignorance which mark the character of the generality of the inhabitants of Ramgur. From habitual neglect in aſcertaining the quantities of land held in leaſe, and in defining with accuracy their reſpective tenures, frequent diſputes ariſe between the inhabitants of different villages regarding their boundaries: to determine them, a reference is uſually made to one or more of the oldeſt inhabitants of the adjacent villages, and if theſe ſhould not agree in their deciſion, other men are ſelected from the inhabitants of the villages claiming the diſputed ground; and the trial proceeds as follows. Holes are dug in the conteſted ſpot, and into theſe holes each of the choſen men puts a leg, and the earth is then thrown in upon it; and in this ſituation they remain until one either expreſſes a wiſh to be releaſed, or complains of being bitten or ſtung by ſome inſect. This decides the conteſt, and the property of the ground is adjudged to belong to that village, the inhabitant of which goes through the trial with the moſt fortitude, and eſcapes unhurt by inſects.

If the preceding detail has no relation to ſcience, it is at leaſt deſcriptive of manners; and in availing myſelf of the opportunities afforded by official occupations (which is all indeed that theſe occupations admit) to contribute my portion to the reſearches of the Society, my example will, I hope, be imitated by thoſe, who with the ſame, or greater opportunities, poſſeſs more knowledge, ability, and leiſure.

Note.

Having lately received ſome farther documents on the ſubject of the dherna, which I did not poſſeſs when the preceding paper was read to the Society, I have extracted from them what appears to me requiſite to elucidate this extraordinary practice. From theſe documents it appears, that ſeveral caſes of dherna, had been brought before the provincial court of juſtice at Benares, and as a penalty had been annexed to the performance of this mode of importunity, it became neceſſary to define with preciſion the rules conſtituting dherna, according to the ſhaſter, and uſage.

For this purpoſe, a queſtion was propoſed to ſeveral pundits *, inhabitants of the province and city of Benares; and the anſwer ſubſcribed by twenty-three pundits is as follows:

"Any one who ſits dherna on another's door, or in his houſe, for the realization of a debt, or for other purpoſe, in which the party ſitting takes with him ſome weapon or poiſon, and ſits down; nor does he eat himſelf, nor allow the party againſt whom he is ſitting, or his family, to eat; nor does he allow any perſon ingreſs into that perſon's houſe, nor egreſs from it, and addreſſing himſelf in terms of the ſtrongeſt oaths to the people of the houſe, he ſays, "If any of thoſe of your houſe ſhall eat victuals, or go into your houſe, or go out of it, I ſhall either wound my

* Doctors, or learned men.

ſelf

ſelf with this weapon, or ſwallow this poiſon;" and it does ſometimes happen that both theſe events take place, and that he who ſits in dherna, is not to remove from it without the entreaty of thoſe on whom he is ſitting, or the order of the Hakim. Whenever all the requiſites above mentioned are found united, they conſtitute dherna: but if any of them be wanting, that is not dherna, but *tuckaza*, or *dunring*; and as no text of the ſhaſter hath been found concerning dherna, therefore we have delivered the requiſites thereof according to the common cuſtom and practice."

There is ſome difference in the opinions of other pundits as to what is underſtood to conſtitute dherna; but the quotation which I have inſerted, appears to me to contain the moſt authentic information on this ſubject.

The Society will obſerve that the practice is not ſpecifically pointed out in the ſhaſter, but has the ſanction of uſage only. The following inſtance is of late occurrence. In January 1794, Mohun Panreh, an inhabitant of a diſtrict in the province of Benares, ſat down in dherna before the houſe of ſome rajepoots, for the purpoſe of obtaining the payment of *birt*, or a charitable ſubſiſtence to which he had a claim, and in this ſituation deſtroyed himſelf by ſwallowing poiſon. Some of the relations of the deceaſed retained his corpſe for two days, before the houſe of the rajepoots; who were thus compelled to forego taking ſuſtenance, in order to induce them to ſettle the *birt* on the heir of the deceaſed brahman.

THOUGHTS ON LAUGHTER.

Continued from Page 13.

IN my laſt letter, I offered ſome opinions concerning the origin of laughter, and ſome remarks on its general nature and tendency. I alſo, in the concluſion, ventured to aſſert that writers upon this ſubject have generally conſidered the *laugh*, and the *ſmile*, as diverſities of the ſame affection; whereas the one is almoſt always involuntary, and the other entirely within our own power, or guided by the habits we have accuſtomed ourſelves to. The laugh is all nature, the ſmile all art. I now proceed to ſome of the moſt common ſpecies of both, and firſt of the *laugh*.

If we conſider that nature precedes improvement, and that men were children of nature, long before civilized manners were introduced, and that, notwithſtanding the refinement of the age, the majority of mankind continue in a ſtate far removed from a ſtate of nature, we muſt allow, upon this account, that the *horſe-laugh* is the moſt general. But it has been ſo amply deſcribed in my firſt letter, as to render it unneceſſary to ſay more on the ſubject. It is peculiar to the merry, honeſt, thoughtleſs ſouls of the lower claſs, when aſſembled at their ſports, or over their cheerful beverage; and it may be very eaſily provoked.

Yet let me not be thought inclined to confine the horſe-laugh to the deſcriptions of perſons juſt mentioned. The horſe-laugh, or loud-laugh, as a natural expreſſion, muſt be ſupported againſt the opinion of Lord Cheſterfield, whoſe refinements, it has been well ſaid, although I forget by whom, were calculated to join the morals of a profligate with the manners of a coxcomb. There are men conſtitutionally indiſpoſed to laugh much, becauſe they are inſenſible to the ridicule ariſing from incongruous objects; but wherever a genuine ſenſe of ridicule prevails *ſtrongly*, no conſiderations of etiquette will be ſufficient to reſtrain the burſt of laughter in any company. Care, indeed, muſt be taken, and that will depend on another ſenſe, to reſtrain any mirth that is attempted to

be

be excited at the expence of goodneſs and wiſdom, or that may tend to ſanction cruelty and vice, but with this exception, men of the beſt manners will be found friendly to the loud laugh.

A ſecond ſpecies of laughter may be that which Lord Cheſterfield would approve, and conſequently ſomething leſs violent, leſs natural, and more polite than the horſe-laugh, that it is not eaſy to ſay preciſely what this is. Thoſe who 'though *Wits* among *Lords*,' are only '*Lords* among *Wits*,' may probably be able to aſcertain it. As far as it has fallen to my lot to obſerve it, it is of that kind which beſpeaks a vacant mind. In that caſe people laugh, not becauſe they feel the impulſe, but becauſe they ſee others laugh, and are too polite to be ſingular.

A third ſpecies is the conſtrained laugh, the moſt painful of any, where the excitement is ſtrong. Perſons of good-breeding will always feel the neceſſity of reſtraining their laugh, when in the company of thoſe who make themſelves ridiculous by their vanity and oſtentation. Dependents and lords, too, are well acquainted with this kind of laugh.

Theſe are the principal kinds of laugh, of which there will be many varieties, according to the prevailing temper of the party. Before proceeding to the *faults*, I ſhall mention a circumſtance that frequently occurs, and may be uſeful. The art of knowing how to make others laugh, ſays an anonymous French author, challenges admiration from a reflecting mind; while thoſe who are poſſeſſed of this knack, take great care to conceal the neceſſary cleverneſs, as well as the excellence of this operation under a natural air, with an eaſy, free, unembarraſſed countenance, to avoid by that means the danger of exciting a ſentiment of admiration, which would infallibly prove detrimental to the act of laughter. And this will explain why perſons that are the firſt to laugh at what they relate, are generally diſappointed, and it happens ſo, becauſe they thereby betray a great ſtock of pride, and commandingly ſeem to bid us remark the importance of their narrative, as well as to draw upon our *admiration*. Such a glaring indication of ſelf-love in others proving offenſive to our own, the latter takes a pleaſure in baulking the former of its vain expectation.

But on a quite contrary plan do all phlegmatic perſons proceed; for they, by relating a facetious adventure with a grave countenance, never fail to excite laughter. The undiſturbed tranquillity of their features, and the collected calmneſs of their manner, give a new zeſt to the joke. And the beſt reaſon that we can aſſign for this effect, is that their ſeemingly artleſs, as well as unimpoſing air, leaves an ample ſcope for the ſelf-love of others to enjoy itſelf, which is not at all alarmed, as in the other inſtance, by the preſumptuous air of wanting to take the lead, and of anticipating the hearers' pleaſure. The concluſion, ſays my author, of all theſe obſervations is, that the art of exciting laughter is never more admirable than when it poſſeſſes the knack of not awakening any ſenſe of admiration.

In corroboration of this author's opinion, I might add that there are many reaſons why a man, who intends to excite laughter, ſhould not begin it, as, for inſtance, his not being quite certain that the ſtory he is about to relate may not apply ſo cloſely to the caſe of ſome one preſent as to give pain; his not being certain that he remembers all the circumſtances of a ſtory; the danger he is in of miſplacing the epigrammatic point; and even the chance there is, that he has wholly miſtaken the place where the wit lies. Theſe laſt caſes may be illuſtrated by an anecdote very common among the wits of Cambridge univerſity. A ſtream of dirty water runs be-

beween Jesus college, and St John's, and it is said, that Herring, afterward the archbishop, slipt down the bank, and fell flat among the mud. A wag, passing by at the time, exclaimed, 'There *Herring!* you are in a fine *pickle* now!' A member of St John's, to which college the immemorial priviledge of *punning* had been conceded in the Spectator's time, and consequently a disposition to be pleased with puns, went home, laughing all the way most immoderately at the joke; some of his fellow-collegians enquiring the cause of such merriment, 'I never heard,' said he, 'a better thing in my life. Herring of Jesus fell into the ditch, and an acquaintance said as he lay sprawling, 'There Herring, you are in a fine *condition* now.' A blunder of this kind turns the laugh most mischievously against the *wit*.

Of *smiles*, there is a considerable variety. I shall begin with the worst kind, not because they are entitled to a preference, but that we may get rid of them the sooner.

There is, then, 1. The *insidious* smile, than which there cannot be a more artful imposition on the easiness of men's natures. Shakspeare, whose judgment of human nature cannot be disputed, has given this smile to many of his personages. The tyrant Gloucester in Henry VI, is made to say,

Why, I can smile, and murder while I smile,
And cry, content, to that which grieves my heart;
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
And frame my face to all occasions.

And in Coriolanus. Menenius Agrippa, in relating the fable of the Belly and the Members to the mutinous citizens, speaks of 'a smile which ne'er came from the lungs.' In Julius Cæsar, Octavius replies to Antony,

—— We are at the stake,
And bay'd about with many enemies,
And some, that smile, have in their hearts, I fear
Millions of mischief.

More strongly yet, Hamlet exclaims that 'One may smile, and smile, and be a villain.' This smile, it will readily be allowed, is no expression of nature, but perfectly at the command of every man who has wicked purposes to serve.

2. The *malicious* smile, which may seem allied to the above, but is yet distinct from it in many respects. He who smiles maliciously has malice enough to rejoice at the evil which has befallen another, but not courage enough to avow the pleasure it gives him more openly. This smile, also, may be practised by persons who would not actually do mischief, if they had it in their power, but nevertheless are very well pleased when it is done. 'Where we are,' says Macbeth, 'there's daggers in men's smiles.' It ought to be noted that this smile, being one of the most diabolical productions of the kind, has generally the appearance of a *grin*, and Milton, in a line very often quoted, speaks of the enemy of mankind who '*grinned* a ghastly smile.' It is needless to add, that whoever has cultivated the affections of a benevolent heart, and wishes well to his fellow-creatures, will ever remain a stranger to this abominable distortion of the 'human face divine.'

3. The *hypocritical* smile. This may be reckoned an inferior species of the former, and is generally employed on more trivial occasions, although it be not one whit more amiable. It passes current between persons who intend to deceive each other, and although each be conscious of his own, and aware of his companion's intention, they continue to practice this smile, as if sure of its success. They resemble Count La Ruse and Jonathan Wild, in Fielding's admirable life of the latter. The Count would play cards with Jonathan although he knew his antagonist could not pay, and Jonathan would attempt to pick the Count's pockets, although convinced they were empty. The hypocritical smile, however, may no doubt

doubt be practiſed with ſucceſs, upon thoſe who do not belong to the fraternity of *knowing ones*, and there are few men who cannot recollect having been deceived by it in their early days.

4. The *ſmile* of *pride*, differs from all the above in being addreſſed to one's ſelf, and may be practiſed with great effect in ſolitude. It appears, however, to moſt advantage in company, where there may be an opportunity to compare our qualifications, particularly as to dreſs and fortune, with thoſe of others. It may be uſeful, too, in diſplaying the grandeur of our equipage, or our horſes, and not unfrequently it is the reward *humbly* paid for compliments beſtowed upon theſe articles.

5. The *ſmile* of *contempt* is good or bad, proper or improper, according to the object of it. It is therefore placed here as partaking ſomewhat of the nature of the kinds already deſcribed, and ſomewhat of thoſe which are to follow. Contempt, it is unneceſſary to ſay, is dignified or mean, according to what we preſume to contemn. That object, therefore, muſt always be known before we can decide upon the caſe, and that object ought to be well known to deſerve contempt, before ſo high a mark of conſcious ſuperiority is permitted to appear. I can conceive men ſmiling contemptuouſly on what would do them honour, but I cannot conceive a finer inſtance of dignified contempt, than the ſmile which Dr Johnſon muſt have employed, when he penned his memorable letters to Lord Cheſterfield and to Mr Macpherſon.

Having thus briefly ſketched the *worſt* kind of ſmiles, I ought to proceed to the more amiable, but as I have extended my letter to a pretty decent length, I ſhall take the liberty to conſider theſe in my next.

I am, Sir, &c.

DEMOCRITUS RIDENS.

ORIGINAL LETTER OF LADY MARY W. MONTAGUE,

Never Before Publiſhed.

Found lately amongſt the papers of a Lady deceaſed.

THIS ſeems to be the letter referred to by the elegant writer in the following poſtſcript to her letter, dated at Vienna, Jan. 16, O. S. 1717. (See Lady M. W. Montague's Letters, Vol. I. p. 119.) "I have written a letter to my Lady ——, that I believe ſhe won't like; and, upon cooler reflection, I think I had done better to have let it alone; but I was downright peeviſh at all her queſtions, and her ridiculous imagination, that I have certainly ſeen abundance of wonders which I keep to myſelf out of meer malice. She is very angry that I won't lie like other travellers. I verily believe ſhe expects I ſhould tell of the *Anthropophagie*, men whoſe heads grow below their ſhoulders; however, pray ſay ſomething to pacify her."

TO THE COUNTESS OF E——.

Vienna, Jan. 1, *O. S.* 1717.

I TROUBLED your Ladyſhip with a letter from Hanover; in which I wiſhed to be entertaining: but if I failed in your Ladyſhip's opinion on the part of novelty, I could but pleaſe your loyalty in the account of the young Prince *; and, if I had any doubt of the miſcarriage of my letter, I would with pleaſure repeat his good qualities again *. I am now, my dear Counteſs, juſt going to undertake a journey towards *Adrianople*, and hope, in fifteen days, to reach *Peterwaradin*. The rigour of the ſeaſon terrifies me, and the polite people here have increaſed my hor-

* Frederick, afterwards Prince of Wales, Father to his preſent Majeſty. He did not come to England until the 4th Dec. 1728.

fors

rors in their deſcription of Hungary out of kindneſs, to keep me longer amongſt them. The reigning Empreſs took ſome trouble to perſuade me to ſtay, and intreated me much to take Vienna in my return; but I am fatigued with German faſhions, and ſurfeited with civility; and at the ſame time ſo truly conjugal, that *honour and obey* will be words ever obediently reſpected by me. But ſhould the fatigue of the journey be equal to what they ſay, I fear my dear infant † will never be able to ſupport it. The croſſing of the Danube carries with it a cold dreary idea; and when I aſſure you, that no leſs a General than Prince Eugene confirms this account, I ſhudder, and would wiſh to relinquiſh the undertaking till the return of the ſwallow. You may be aſſured my ideas were raiſed very high at the expectation of an interview with this hero, but the ſublime pleaſures of imagination are ſeldom realized in real life: before I ſaw the Prince, my mind run on nothing but the labours and form of Hercules; but theſe notions were lowered by finding him a tame mortal, which convinced me that there is no perfection in human nature.

I hope you are not ſo extravagant in your demands as many of my friends: they all inſiſt upon deſcriptions of churches, palaces, faſhions, &c. without ever conſidering, that by continually deſcribing, I make many repetitions; but if my letters are not compared, I may yet hope to paſs without cenſure, and be ſtill thought an entertaining traveller. To write to you, and write nothing about Vienna, I fear may give you offence; and to give you the latitude and longitude, will be only telling you nothing more than any dull Geographer may do. There is ſcarce a letter of mine from hence, but what is ſtuffed with palaces, convents, rivers, &c. and therefore I beg leave to deſcend from the imperial rooms of princes, and the top of three ſtories, to tell you, that the cellars in Vienna are more curious than their grandeſt and higheſt apartments: ſome houſes have abſolutely four, one under the other, arched with one or two pair of ſtairs, and tubes from the ſtreet, to convey air into them. You would be highly diverted here, my dear Counteſs, in the winter ſeaſon, when the different branches of the Danube are frozen over, and the ground is covered with ſnow: the ladies then amuſe themſelves in ſledges, drawn by one horſe, adorned with bells, ribbons, and taſſels, and vie as much in the taſte of their carriages as in other fopperies: this entertainment, amongſt the polite, never begins till the evening, when the ſervants attend on horſeback with flambeaux, and the gallant ſits behind the ſledge to guide the horſe. The belles upon theſe occaſions are generally dreſſed in velvets, lined with furs, and caps ornamented with ſables. But what ſurpriſed me moſt was to find a Scotch convent here, of ſome ſmall fame and reſpect; which raiſed my curioſity much, to know how the Scots became of ſo much conſequence in Vienna—which I found was by a *Saint Colman*, of Scotland, who is held in high veneration, and lineally deſcended from the blood of their Kings; but was murdered by ſome unbelieving peaſants about five miles from this city. But the virtues of this holy man did not end with his life—what think you of his body hanging on a tree upwards of two years uncorrupted; and at the ſame time performing many miracles in that pendant ſituation? There are few bodies with ſuch virtues amongſt our countrymen, for it is ſcarce in the power of phyſic and philoſophy to preſerve them from putrefaction while alive. I congratulate the Caledonians on the acquiſition of this new

† The celebrated Edward Wortley Montague.

new Saint, but wonder the German crows were so civil to refrain from so savoury a Scotch haggiss. Pray don't chide me, my dear Madam, for laziness; for if such *papal* lies will entertain you, you shall never want miracles and prodigies from

Yours, &c.

SPEECH MADE BY QUEEN ELIZABETH,

To a Nobleman at the head of the Faction which Opposed her Ministry.

HOW comes it, my Lord, that after so many groundless aspersions thrown out by you on a man I thought fit principally to employ, the cold silence I have affected to receive them with on the one side, and the continuance of the confidence I favoured Cecil with on the other, have not opened your eyes as to my real sentiments of him, and reclaimed you from your fruitless attack, and the association you are entered into with his enemies? men who have no motive to hate him but envy, no cause to attack him but private disappointment.

Can you think me ignorant of your cabals, and the vile methods they use in their attempts to fully his reputation, and sink his credit with my subjects? Or is it my tameness to bear these impotent efforts, that has given them the insolent hopes they so loudly proclaim of speedily supplanting him?

Must I then give up my own understanding to yours, and believe him weak or dishoneſt, because you say he is so? Or vainly think you, that your cabal will be able to run him down with calumny and clamour?

'Tis Cecil's management, you cry, has brought me so near a rupture with Spain. Is it not notorious, that Court owes not its resentments to any steps that Cecil has advised? Is it not certain, that the proceedings of that Crown, to the prejudice of mine and my people's rights, gave the rise to all these troubles, not occasioned or provoked by Cecil's counsels? You say he is guilty; but where do you offer one instance of his guilt? Have you been able to produce a single proof of his mal administration? Has he embezzled the public treasure, or any ways converted it to his own use? Has he, either by his negligence or incapacity, diminished the revenue? No; envy itself must acquit him here, and own he has administered it with the utmost capacity and frugality; that he has improved it in most of its branches by his prudent regulations, his exact and masterly knowledge of it in all its parts. Has he then invaded private property, or committed any act of power for his own lucre? Name the subject he has oppressed; the most obscure one in my dominions might have found access to me; and if he had wanted it, your cabal, with its hundred mouths, was open and ready to proclaim aloud the most minute wrong he had done. What then will you say? Is not justice impartially administered? Are not its seats filled up with able and upright men? Which of them has yielded to his influence or corruption? Or has Cecil himself been corrupted? Oft have you likened him to my father's mercenary Wolsey; but what Prince has Cecil been bribed by? From what foreign Crown has Cecil received a pension of gratuity? In what Courts abroad had he ever held a correspondence, in opposition to the measures I am engaged in? What foreign powers has he abetted or encouraged to bring difficulties upon me, and distress upon my people? What! my Lord? not a word on any of these heads? Does your silence then justify Cecil? But you say, he is *weak*, and when his integrity cannot be impeached, his abilities are to be called in question.

Has Cecil then been tried and approved in the most exalted stations for so many years? Has he so often and so long shone in senates, the truest

eſt touchſtone of Engliſh abilities? And are his own now to be doubted? Has he then been truſted by a ſucceſſion of Princes, courted by ſuch different ſets of Miniſters, for his *weakneſs?* By miniſters, with whom were the beſt of your junto to be compared, they would ſeem mere infants in underſtanding, the beings of a day.

Is it that there are ſtill more able, more worthy men among your ſet of wou'd-be-Miniſters? Perſons on whoſe ſuperior talents, ſounder ſenſe, greater application to buſineſs, more public ſpirit, or ſincere attachment to my intereſt, I might depend? Here then again, my Lord, will I lay aſide the Sovereign, and not aſk who ſhall direct me in the choice of my Miniſters; who is it that will controul me in the appointment of my ſervants? No; I'll condeſcend to reaſon with you, and from your own mouth will confute you. Name me then, I charge you, which of you it is that tranſcends Cecil in all, nay, in any one of theſe good qualities? Point me out the man, in all your cabal, who would, with the leaſt ſhare of public applauſe, fill up Cecil's place. What! ſtill at a loſs, my Lord?——Is it——But I will not at this time enter into a detail of characters; your confuſion makes it needleſs. Be aſſured, however, that I know your junto, and have not waited till now to weigh them againſt Cecil, man by man. Suffice is to tell you, that they have been found *light* in the ſcale, and that 'tis as well from judgment as from inclination, that I have placed Cecil in the ſtation he now fills.

No more then, my good Lord, of theſe envious bickerings at my choice; this inſolent arraignment of my conduct; this impotent attack of a man whom I delight to honour; much leſs by a ſmall, an inconſiderable junto, that ſeem reſolved to thruſt themſelves into my ſervice, and hope to wreſt that from my fears, they cannot obtain from my judgment.

ON THE EFFECTS OF COLD, AND THE COMFORTS OF WINTER.

—— Sore pierc'd by wintry winds,
How many ſhrink into the ſordid hut
Of cheerleſs poverty.—
—— Thought fond man
Of theſe—
The conſcious heart of Charity would warm,
And her wide wiſh Benevolence dilate. THOMSON.

EVERY ſeaſon of the year has its advantages; and the froſt and cold prevent many hurtful vapours in the higher regions of the atmoſphere from falling upon us, and even purify the air. Far from being always bad for our health, it often ſtrengthens it, and preſerves the humours from putrefaction, which a conſtant heat would certainly occaſion. If the vapours which collect in the atmoſphere were always to fall in rain, the earth would be too ſoft and wet, our bodies would be too full of humours and too much relaxed; whereas the cold braces and promotes the circulation of the blood. In very hot countries, and where the winters are rainy and wet, ſerious and mortal diſeaſes are much more frequent than elſewhere. We are told by travellers, that in Greenland, where the ground is covered with mountains of ice, and where in winter the days are only four or five hours long, the air is very wholeſome, clear, and light; and, except a few complaints in the cheſt and eyes, (occaſioned partly by the quality of the food) they have ſeldom there the diſorders ſo common in Europe. It is alſo certain, that the conſtitution of the human body varies according to the different cli-

mates; conſequently, the inhabitants of the northern countries have conſtitutions adapted to extreme cold, and are generally ſtrong and robuſt. As man, though active by choice, and though labour is neceſſary to him, is ſtill glad to interrupt his employments to taſte the ſweets of ſleep; ſo alſo nature yields to the change of ſeaſons, and takes a pleaſure in it, becauſe in reality it contributes toward our welfare and happineſs. Although our fields and gardens be buried in ſnow, this is neceſſary, in order to preſerve them from the cold, as well as to prevent the grain from corrupting. The ground requires reſt after having yielded in the ſummer all that we want for the winter. If our preſent ſupport had not been provided for; if in this ſevere ſeaſon we were obliged to cultivate the earth, there might be ſome foundation for our complaints. But our proviſion is made: all our wants ſupplied, and we enjoy a repoſe ſuitable to the ſeaſon.

Dr Johnſon has remarked an advantage of winter, which men of his ſtamp will feel with peculiar energy, and it is certainly founded on truth. 'To men of ſtudy and imagination,' ſays he, 'the winter is generally the chief time of labour. Gloom and ſilence produce compoſure of mind, and concentration of ideas; and the privation of external pleaſure naturally cauſes an effort to find entertainment within. This is the time in which thoſe, whom literature enables to find amuſements for themſelves, have more than common conviction of their own happineſs. When they are condemned by the elements to retirement, and debarred from moſt of the diverſions which are called in to aſſiſt the flight of time, they can find new ſubjects of enquiry, and preſerve themſelves from that wearineſs which hangs always flapping upon the vacant mind.'

The winter, however, differs very eſſentially in ſome countries. If we feel ourſelves diſpoſed to complain, let us conſider the following facts, which relate to a great part of the northern nations, which have neither ſpring nor autumn. The heat is as intolerable in ſummer as the cold is in winter. The ſeverity of the latter is ſuch, that the ſpirits of wine in the thermometer freeze. When the door of a warm room is opened, the outward air which comes in, turns all the vapours into ſnow; and they appear like thick white clouds. If any one goes out of the houſe, they are almoſt ſuffocated, and the air ſeems to pierce through them. Every thing appears dead, as nobody does venture abroad. Sometimes the cold becomes ſo intenſe, all of a ſudden, that if they are not ſaved in time, people are in danger of loſing an arm, a leg, or even their life. The fall of ſnow is ſtill more dangerous; the wind drives it with ſuch violence, that nobody can find their way; the trees and buſhes are covered with it, the ſight is blinded by it, and people ſink into precipices at every ſtep. In ſummer it is conſtantly light for three months, and in winter it is perpetual night during the ſame ſpace of time. We who complain of the cold in this country, ſeem not to know our advantages.

Yet we are miſtaken if we ſuppoſe that the inhabitants of the pole are unhappy from the ſeverity and length of their winter. Poor, yet exempt through ſimplicity from all deſires difficult to gratify, thoſe people live content in the midſt of the rocks of ice which ſurround them, without knowing the bleſſings which the ſouthern nations conſider as an eſſential part of their happineſs. If the barrenneſs of their ſoil prevents them from having ſuch variety of productions of the earth as we have, the ſea is ſo much the more bountiful in her gifts to them. Their way of living inures them to cold, and enables them to defy ſtorms. As to particular reſources, without which they could not bear the rigour of the climate, nature provides them with

with abundance. Their deſarts are full of wild beaſts, whoſe fur protects them from cold. The rein-deer ſupplies them with food, drink, beds, clothes, and tents. Theſe are moſt of their wants, and give them little trouble to obtain. When the ſun does not riſe with them, they are ſurrounded with darkneſs, nature itſelf lights a torch for them. The Aurora Borealis brightens their night. Perhaps theſe people conſider their country as the greateſt and happieſt upon earth, and may pity us as much as we pity them.

The moſt remarkable phenomena of this ſeaſon are froſt and ſnow, and we ſhall conclude this article with a ſhort account of theſe, which though the moſt familiar, are not among the things moſt generally underſtood.

The freezing of water was formerly attributed to the entrance of frigorific particles into that fluid: but the augmentation of the bulk of water in freezing, ſeems to be the only fact which can with reaſon be alleged in ſupport of this doctrine; yet this increaſe of bulk is not attended with any increaſe of weight, and may be much better explained, than by attributing it to the addition of frigorific particles, which were never proved to have any exiſtence. The increaſe which water acquires in becoming ſolid is about one-ninth or one-tenth of its whole bulk. Boyle took a braſs tube, three inches in diameter, and put ſome water into it; he then brought down into the tube a plug, with a weight placed at the head of it of ſeventy-four pounds *. The expanſive power of water, in the proceſs of freezing, was proved by a remarkable experiment made in Canada. An iron ball, after having its mouth well plugged up, was filled up with water, and expoſed to a ſevere froſt which prevailed in that country. The expanſion of the ice forced out the plug, and the water, which immediately followed, was frozen into an irregular maſs or column of ice. The inſtances already mentioned, however, are far leſs ſtriking than one deſcribed by Muſchenbroek, in which a ball of iron, an inch thick, was burſt aſunder in the courſe of twelve hours by the expanſive power of froſt. That philoſopher having calculated the force exerted by the freezing of water in a ſimilar caſe, found it equal to a force capable of raiſing a weight of twenty ſeven thouſand, ſeven hundred, and twenty pounds.

When ſuch is the expanſive power exerted by water in paſſing to the ſtate of ice, we cannot be ſurpriſed that veſſels, which are left filled with water in froſty weather, ſhould be burſt by its freezing, and that the ſame thing ſhould happen to water-pipes expoſed to the action of froſt. The pavement is ſometimes looſened from the ſame cauſe, and in countries where very ſevere colds prevail, the ſap of trees congeals, and their trunks are burſt aſunder, with a noiſe like that of cannon. Froſt fertilizes the ground by looſening the coheſion of the particles of earth. Such are ſome of the moſt remarkable effects of this phenomenon.

As to ſnow, the cold of the higher regions of the atmoſphere is ſometimes ſo great, as to freeze the aqueous particles which form clouds. If the particles become frozen before they have had time to unite into drops, many of the ſmall icicles which are produced, uniting together, and being connected only at a few points, form elegant muffs, which we call ſnow. The order and arrangement of the icicles is not always the ſame; they vary greatly, and this produces the variety which is obſerved in ſnow. It is remarkable, that though ſnow varies at different times, yet what falls together is always the ſame; that is, the ſnow which falls at a particular time, conſiſts

* On expoſing the tube to the cold, the water freezing itſelf, raiſed the ſeventy four pounds.

ſiſts of flakes, which vary only in ſize, but are all formed of particles diſpoſed in a ſimilar manner. We are not ſufficiently acquainted with the laws by which the concretion or cryſtallization of bodies are regulated, to explain the cauſe of theſe phenomena. On account of the ſmall quantity of matter contained in ſnow, in proportion to the ſurfaces expoſed, it meets with great reſiſtance in paſſing through the atmoſphere, and conſequently falls very ſlowly. Its great ſurface alſo renders it very ſuceptible of evaporation, which conſiderably diminiſhes its weight, even in the coldeſt weather.

During the ſeverity of the froſt, little work can be done out of doors by the farmer. As ſoon as it ſets in, he takes the opportunity of the hardneſs of the ground to draw manure to his fields. He lops and cuts timber, and mends thorn-hedges. When the roads become ſmooth from the frozen ſnow, he takes his team and carries hay and corn to market, or draws coals for himſelf and his neighbours. The barn reſounds with the flail, by the uſe of which the labourer is enabled to defy the cold weather. In towns the poor are pinched for fewel, and charity is peculiarly called for at this ſeaſon of the year. Many trades are at a ſtand during the ſeverity of the froſt; rivers and canals being frozen up, watermen and bargemen are out of employment. There is no ſeaſon indeed in which there are more preſſing calls for charity, and none in which the rich ought to feel their own comforts with a gratitude more lively, and conſequently more diſpoſed to exertions in favour of the poor.

N.

ON THE INVENTION OF THE TELESCOPE.

AS many people entertain inaccurate ideas concerning that moſt important and intereſting invention the Teleſcope, permit me briefly to ſtate the facts, as they appear to me, after ſome inveſtigation, conducted, as I may ſafely aſſert, with complete candour *.

The minute labour of the ancient gems and medals ſhews, that the artiſts poſſeſſed ſome ideas of the magnifying power of glaſs. But it ſeems uncertain whether this conſiſted in ſimply lodging a drop of water in a hole, pierced through a thin piece of metal; or in ſmall globes made of rock-cryſtal.

Certain it is that ſpectacles were unknown till about A. D. 1300: and from an epitaph given, I believe, by Tiraboſchi in his "*Hiſtory of Italian Literature*," it is moſt reaſonable to infer that the invention belongs to D'Armato of Florence. Venice being almoſt the only place where fine glaſs was fabricated, in the middle ages, it is the more probable that Italy ſhould claim the invention.

About A. D. 1610, two children of Zachariah Janſen, a ſpectacle-maker of Middleburg in Zealand, amuſing themſelves, diſcovered that a concave and convex glaſs, held in a certain manner, greatly magnified any object. The father aſcertained the invention by fixing the glaſſes on a piece of wood at their proper diſtances.

The great Gallileo, hearing very ſoon of this invention, improved it by putting the glaſſes into a tube; and is conſidered as the father of the common teleſcope, called alſo achromatic and refracting.

That teleſcope can hardly magnify above thirty times, becauſe that, as the ſize is augmented, the glaſs muſt be ſo large and thick, as by the latter quality to injure the tranſmiſſion of the light.

This defect was happily remedied by the grand invention of the reflecting

* Dr Prieſtley's "*Hiſtory of Optics*," one of the moſt intereſting works in any language, contains a circumſtantial detail of the firſt diſcovery of teleſcopes, &c.

flecting teleſcope, which may be enlarged to almoſt any power; the effect ariſing from metallic mirrors, which are ſo placed and conſtructed as to reflect an object magnified to an amazing degree.

Sir Iſaac Newton was the firſt who made habitual uſe of the Reflecting Teleſcope. That great man ſuggeſted ſome improvements: but he acknowledges (Phil. Tranſ. Nos. 80. and 83,) that the invention belongs entirely to James Gregory, a native of Aberdeen, and afterwards profeſſor of mathematics at St Andrews.

The work, in which Gregory firſt deſcribes his invention, is his "*Optica Promota*," publiſhed in 1663. In 1668 Sir Iſaac firſt applied his mind to putting it in practice: and the *uſe* of the Reflecting Teleſcope may be ſaid to commence about † 1670. The eye glaſs may be either at the ſide, or at the end, as the ſmall mirror is placed: and the large mirror requires, of courſe, a tube far thicker and ſhorter than the common teleſcope, ſo that five feet length in the one is equal to one hundred and twenty-three in the other.

It is ſurpriſing that the popular books on aſtronomy omit the invention of the Reflecting Teleſcope, the chief ſource of modern diſcoveries in aſtronomy. Without Gregory we ſhould have had no Herſchel.

I ſhall only add, that in other reſpects James Gregory was a worthy precurſor of Newton, and deſerves a nich between Des Cartes and our immortal philoſopher. Gregory died at St Andrews in December 1675, aged only thirty-ſix. For a fuller account of his merits and inventions (among which latter is the reflecting burning glaſs), permit me to refer to the "*Biographia Britannica.*"

† It was not in general uſe till A. D. 1719, when Hadley rendered it more commodious and portable.

AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.

On Sea Weed as a Manure.

THE following hints on this article may prove uſeful. It is a well-known fact, that the iſlands of Jerſey and Guernſey produce no wood for fuel, every part being turned to better account. The inhabitants who would, but for the following expedient, be entirely dependent for a ſupply from England, have framed laws for regulating the gathering ſea-weed for that purpoſe. On ſome particular day in the year, as ſoon as the clock ſtrikes (twelve or one), all the peaſantry and lower claſſes, men, women, and children, repair to the ſea-ſide with carts, horſes, nay, even wheel-barrows and baſkets, and ſtrip from the rocks the ſea-weed growing on them, which they bring home and dry with great attention and care; and which, when perfectly dry, they make into ſtacks, and cut it out in cakes to burn on the hearth. The aſhes are made uſe of as manure, probably unmixed with any thing elſe, for their graſs lands. Theſe aſhes are preſerved in a ſhed or ſtore for the purpoſe. The ſea-weed harveſt continues ſeveral days, when each perſon gets as much as he is able; and as ſoon as any perſon gains poſſeſſion of a rock, all the weed growing thereon is his own property, which is not often diſputed. After the number of days preſcribed are expired, no perſon dares to gather any more until the return of the proper ſeaſon. There is a ſort of Strawberry cultivated at Jerſey, which is almoſt covered with ſea-weed in the winter, in like manner as many plants in England are with litter from the ſtable. Theſe ſtrawberries are uſually of the largeneſs of a middle ſized apricot, and the flavor is particularly grateful. In Jerſey and Guernſey, ſituate ſcarcely one degree farther ſouth than Cornwall, all kinds of fruit, pulſe, and vegetables are produced

duced in their ſeaſons a fortnight or three weeks ſooner than in England, even on the ſouthern ſhores; and ſnow will ſcarcely remain 24 hours on the earth. Although this may be attributed to theſe iſlands being ſurrounded with a ſalt and conſequently moiſt atmoſphere, yet the aſhes made uſe of as manure may alſo have their portion of influence, and reſiſt the congealing properties of froſt. In thoſe countries where the lands are covered with a burning torrent of lava, which lays every thing waſte, that lava, when decompoſed, after a time, forms a cruſt of earth on its ſurface, and the plants and fruits produced thereon, exceed all others in beauty, excellence, and ſize. In England, land is often pared and burnt, the aſhes being afterwards ſpread as manure; but as ſalt is one great principle of vegetation, the aſhes from the ſea-weed muſt obtain a decided preference over all other; and in lands newly enclosed from the ſea, where the occupiers have ſo good an opportunity of collecting ſea-weed, it would doubtleſs be worth their attention to make the trial both of the weed in its natural ſtate, and alſo of its aſhes, to promote vegetation, on which land it proceeds but ſlowly. A celebrated traveller has remarked, that a track of land belonging to the crown of Denmark, conſiſting of a drifting ſand, on which nothing would vegetate, and which injured the neighbouring lands, was brought to produce a conſiderable quantity of good hay, by being covered with ſea-weed collected from the ſhore, and which was prevented from being blown away by being pinned down with twigs of the fir tree. It is ſaid that the iſland of Alderney is one continued bed of ſand; ſome perſon may perhaps be able to aſcertain whether the uſe of ſea-weed in any way contributed either to form or improve the valuable herbage on that iſland.

High Ways.

AS it is of the utmoſt importance for any country to have an abundant ſupply of corn within itſelf, ſo Agricultural Improvements have at all times met with the moſt liberal encouragement in every enlightened and well-regulated ſtate.

The alarm of a ſcarcity in theſe kingdoms a ſhort time ago, the premiums at that time given out of the public purſe to encourage importation, and the attention of the Britiſh Legiſlature in forming a Board of Agriculture, abundantly ſhow the neceſſity of further exertions, not only in improving what is now under cultivation, but of bringing under the plough as faſt as poſſible ſuch grounds as have hitherto remained in a ſtate of nature or nearly ſo, and of which there is a very great proportion in this iſland, and particularly on this ſide the Tweed. A very great change has taken place in many parts of Scotland within theſe few years, and to a great and evident advantage, which would extend and be more beneficial, but for one difficulty, a ſcarcity of hands, which has been, and is ſtill, a very great complaint among the farmers here. One great cauſe of this is, a very general inclination in the country labourers to be at their own hand during the ſummer half year; (that is unengaged to one maſter for the whole half year), a time for work as neceſſary for the farmer as during winter, and which, at leaſt here, is impoſſible to be performed under the uncertainty which attends ſervants hired by the day, or even week. The labourers are chiefly induced to this from the certainty of being hired by the day in the making and repairing the public roads, which are daily increaſing in number and demand of hands, generally the beſt in the neigh-

neighbourhood. I have often thought that if Government were to take the management of the highways into their own hands, and in time of peace employ the military in the making and repairing them, that it would tend much to prevent this very general complaint of the farmer, and it would certainly be no disadvantage to the present labourers to be thereby obliged to cultivate the ground. This measure might also be attended with many other advantages. The military, by being stationed along the various highways, would render the roads more safe for the traveller, and the carriage of goods, and in a great degree would tend to destroy smuggling, the bane of the revenue and fair trader. Besides, the soldier himself would be in a much better situation, with a small addition to his pay, if government should think that proper, than leading an enervating, idle, and too often debauched life in the various towns and villages where he is quartered. I have often mentioned these circumstances in conversation, and always found them listened to, as what would be of very great advantage to the country.

Your giving this a corner in your very useful Miscellany will oblige many, as well as your obedient servant, Z.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LAND-TAX.

With some Observations on the Purchase thereof.

THE land-tax, till the passing of the late act for perpetuating it, differed from other branches of the public revenue (except part of the duties on malt) in being imposed annually, whereas other taxes have been granted either for a term of years, or more commonly, of late years, for ever. But though granted for only one year at a time, the land-tax has been regularly continued from year to year, since the revolution; having never been wholly taken off, but has varied with respect to the rate, being usually reduced during peace, and increased again in time of war, to answer in part the increased expenditure. In 1693 it was first raised to *four* shillings in the pound, upon a valuation given in, in the preceding year, and according to which it has continued to be raised to the present time, at the following rates

In 1698 and	1699	—	at 3s.
	1700	—	at 2s.
	1701	—	at 3s.
1702 to	1712	—	at 4s.
1713 to	1715	—	at 2s.
	1716	—	at 4s.
1717 to	1721	—	at 3s.
1722 to	1726	—	at 2s.
1727		—	at 4s.
1728 and	1729	—	at 3s.
1730 and	1731	—	at 2s.
1732 and	1733	—	at 1s.
1734 to	1739	—	at 2s.
1740 to	1749	—	at 4s.
1750 to	1752	—	at 3s.
1753 to	1755	—	at 2s.
1756 to	1766	—	at 4s.
1767 to	1770	—	at 3s.
	1771	—	at 4s.
1772 to	1775	—	at 3s.
1776 to	1791	—	at 4s.

The sums to be raised at 4s. in the pound, is stated in the annual act at 1,989,673l. 7s. 10½d. for England, and 47,054l. 12s. 2d. for Scotland, making together 2,037,627l. 19s. 6d.; and upon credit of this assessment, 2,000,000l. is usually borrowed of the bank in anticipation of the tax, for which fund exchequer bills are given them, which ought to be cancelled out of the produce of the taxes as it comes in. The charges of management of this tax, for England and Wales, in the year ending 5th January, 1797, amounted to 54,854l. 3s. 4d. and there are payments made out of it for the militia, deserter's warrants, and bounties for the growth of hemp and

ſtax, which in the ſame year amounted to 16,630l. 2s. 3d. in England and Wales, and 311l. in Scotland, which payments muſt be provided for in ſome other mode, if the propoſed redemption is carried into execution, unleſs a new land-tax is to be immediately impoſed. Theſe ſums being deducted, would make the total nett produce 1,965,846l. 3s. 5¼l.; but the full amount of the aſſeſſment is ſeldom if ever collected, ſo that the nett payments into the exchequer always fall ſhort of the ſum borrowed on the credit thereof, excluſive of intereſt on the bills, and the deficiency is made good out of the ſupplies of the next year.

The land-tax which has hitherto been granted *annually*, having been made perpetual from the 25th of March next, the time when the annual act paſſed in the beginning of the laſt ſeſſion will expire, it is natural to enquire into the advantages likely to ariſe from the adoption of a meaſure, which formerly would have been ſtrenuouſly oppoſed, on principles now thought of little importance, in compariſon with any pecuniary advantage to the ſtate or to individuals.

When Mr Pitt introduced the propoſt into parliament, it was not for the purpoſe of providing for the intereſt of a new loan, but with the view of facilitating the raiſing of future loans, by abſorbing a large quantity of the ſtock at preſent in the market, and thus raiſing the current price; while at the ſame time it would be attended with an increaſe of revenue. This at leaſt was the miniſter's avowed object, and he eſtimated that it would be the means of redeeming, or taking out of the market, about 80,000,000l. of ſtock; but it appears that this eſtimate is too high, even if the plan can be fully carried into execution without any alteration of the preſent terms, which is very improbable. The tax cannot be fairly ſtated to produce on an average more than 1,900,000l. per ann. and if one half is redeemed by perſons intereſted in the land, ſo much three per cent. ſtock muſt be transferred as will produce an annuity of 1,045,000l. and for the other half purchaſed by perſons not intereſted, the ſtock transferred muſt produce an annuity of 1,140,000l. making together 2,185,000l. per ann. and the capital of ſtock transfered 72,833,333l. 6s. 8d. This appears to be the greateſt extent of its operation that can be expected; for if the plan were to ſucceed, it is probable that the principal part would be purchaſed by perſons intereſted in the land, and if more than half was purchaſed by ſuch perſons, the capital of ſtock transferred muſt be proportionably leſs than the amount I have ſtated. In order to form a juſt idea of the permanent effect that the redemption of ſuch a portion of ſtock would have, it ſhould be recollected, that it is only about a ſixth part more than the amount of the new ſtock created laſt year would have appeared, had the loyalty loan been made in three per cents.

The meaſure may be thought of conſiderable importance at preſent for ſupporting the credit of the public funds, by keeping up their price; and if fully carried into execution, it would certainly produce an addition to the revenue; but this gain to the revenue is evidently a loſs to individuals, who transfer a fixed annuity in order to be releaſed from the payment of an annuity of leſs amount, when they might pay the latter regularly out of the former, and retain the ſurplus. Thus, in order to redeem 2cl. land-tax, the capital of three per cents, which muſt be transferred, is 733l. 6s. 8d. producing 22l. per annum. But if a perſon purchaſes only 666l. 13s. 4d. ſtock, and keeps it in his own hands, appropriating the dividend to the payment of his land-tax, to which it is juſt equal, it is obvious he ſaves 66l. 13s. 4d. ſtock. In the caſe of perſons purchaſing the tax who are not intereſted in

in the land, the loſs to the individual is doubled, and may be ſet in a ſtill clearer view: ſuch perſons, for 20l. land-tax muſt transfer 800l. three per cents. which, if bought at 50, makes the intereſt the tax pays them for their money exactly five per cent. whereas the ſtock transferred produced them exactly ſix per cent. and the only inducement which there appears to be for relinquiſhing this difference of intereſt is a preference of the ſecurity of a tax upon land, to the revenues on which the public funds depend, though many perſons will be inclined to doubt the juſtneſs or propriety of any ſuch diſtinction. Q

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

A Tour through the Iſle of Mann, in 1797 and 1798; comprising Sketches of its Antient and Modern Hiſtory, Conſtitution, Laws, Commerce, Agriculture, Fiſhery, &c. including whatever is remarkable in each Pariſh, its Population, Inſcriptions, Regiſters, &c. By John Feltham. Embelliſhed with a map of the Iſland and other Plates. 8vo. 7s. Boards.

THE following extracts are taken from thoſe paſſages which ſeem to give the beſt general view of the former and preſent ſtate of the iſland, ſo far as it is likely to intereſt the majority of our readers.

"THIS "Navel of the ſea" poſſeſſes many privileges. The unfortunate may find it an aſylum; the œconomiſt a place exempted of all taxes; the epicure may enjoy fiſh, port wine, hams, and poultry, cheap; and the philoſopher a place of reſt from buſtle and faction. The native goodneſs of the Manks has been too often impoſed on by ſtrangers, and juſtly engendered a prudent reſerve; and ſome ſlight introduction is rather expected before a comfortable connection with them can take place.

"In emigrating from England, many advantages muſt be given up. Money, here, loſes much of its omnipotency; *the pleaſures of a luxuriant table cannot be had without difficulty:* markets are thin, and but ill provided, and there are not any butchers' ſhops. The pigs are larger in proportion than their other cattle, and extremely good and plenty. But meat is ſcarce, and the veal in general indifferent; the mutton is ſweet and delicate. But a very peculiar breed of ſheep is found here, the wool of a red ſandy colour, or the faun-coloured Turkey wool uſed by hatters in this country.

"Poultry of all kinds are numerous and cheap; fiſh and eggs are plenty and reaſonable. The better kind of fruits are not to be had; Major Taubman's was the only walled garden I obſerved, and that would grace any place. Apples are not grown in any quantity.

"The want of trees and hedges gives a barren aſpect to the iſland; but it is not unpleaſing from the undulation of its ſurface, and the ſublimity of its mountains, of varied ſhape, diſtances, and termination; whoſe ſides afford a frequent ſpecimen of that adventitious beauty occaſioned by floating clouds intercepting the ſun-beams, and giving to the fields glowing and varied tints. But it could not have always been without trees, for by a ſtatute in 1570, a foreſter is allowed to range the foreſt for unthorn ſheep, &c.*

"Thus, though its rocks are not, like thoſe in Devonſhire, "fringed with ornamental plants and ſhrubs;" nor "its gardens ſurrounded with myrtle hedges covered with moſt delicious bloom;" yet its rugged rocks, and bold mountains, whoſe outlines are abruptly varied, adorned with the heath, gorſe, and fern, that ſpread over its ſurface, form ſomewhat of a pictureſque ſcene; but a general want of trees, &c. for a fore-ground, and a requiſite *variety* of well-diſpoſed *objects*,

* The Druids found this iſland well planted with firs; quantities have been dug up ſome depth under the ſurface of the earth; and ſome oaks, which, it is ſuppoſed, being their favourite tree, was introduced by them.

A Tour in Switzerland; or A View of the Present State of the Governments and Manners of those Cantons: with Comparative Sketches of the Present State of Paris. By Helen Maria Williams. 2 vols. 8vo. 12s. Robinsons. 1798.

IN this revolutionary age, an Author [illegible] who professes to describe the present state of a Country on the Continent of Europe: to, in all probability, the very System of Government, or Customs and Manners, which the writer is perfidly labouring to undermine and explode, may, by the day of publication, be entirely overthrown, and a state of things have taken place, to no part of which the remarks that are offered to the reader may be applicable.

The subjugation of Switzerland by France, and the imposition by that overbearing power of a new Form of Constitution on the Helvetian Republic, are very important circumstances that might indeed have been foreseen, but certainly could not be diverted by curtain Tourists. The Reader of these Volumes, therefore, will bear in mind, that it is Switzerland on the eve of a Great Revolution, and not under its operation, that is the subject of her pen.

Miss Williams in her Preface professes to be aware that the path which she trod had been trodden before, and the objects on which the gazer with astonishment had been already determined: but she adds,

"It is true that the sketch I have presented to that sublime society, however rude, will be found to be an original drawing, copied from nature and not from books: yet I should scarcely have presumed to obtrude that unfinished outline on the public eye, if the other parts of my journal offered nothing new to its observation. It is the present moral situation of Switzerland that justifies the appearance of these Volumes, in which an attempt is made to trace the important effects which the French Revolution has produced in that country, and which *are about to unfold a new æra in its history.*"

To her journal she professes to have endeavoured to give additional interest by connecting the view of the manners and customs of the Swiss towns, with a

a comparative picture of the present flate of Paris.

It will be remembered by many of our readers, that Miss Williams was, with many other Englifh fubjects, imprifoned in Paris under the tyranny of Robefpiere.

"In this fituation (fays fhe) an opportunity prefented itfelf of obtaining a paffport for Switzerland—A paffport! they who can judge of all the bleffings that word unfolds, are not thofe who, at a diftance from the Government of Robefpiere, have heard of its terrific influence, but thofe who were placed within its favage grafp. Juft at the moment of my efcape, how many immured in the dungeons of the tyrant vainly wifhed to purchafe, at the price of all they poffeffed, the privilege of forfaking a country, compofed only of executioners and of victims."

Thefe readers might have been interefted, perhaps, by a relation of the means through which fhe became liberated from prifon, and placed in a fituation to demand or to ufe a paffport. Miss Williams has, however, been filent on this head.

Two haftily-printed pages tranfport us from Paris to Bafil, in which latter place our Tourift makes fome reflections that might naturally enough be excited in her mind, but which are not of fufficient importance to arreft our attention. She finds *intereft* to be the *primum mobile* of the burghers of Bafil, and that even their hours of recreation are under its influence.

"The men have formed themfelves into different focieties, called *tabagies*, or fmoking-clubs, becaufe all the members fmoke moft foulouffly. Each club is compofed of nearly the fame age, a cuftom to which the love of equality perhaps gave rife, but which is obferved to be extremely prejudicial to the manners of the young men of Bafil, by excluding all forms of deference and politenefs, as well as all means of improvement. With refpect to thefe things, there is indeed nothing peculiar to the clubs of Bafil; fince from Brooks' compofed of the honourable members of the Britifh Parliament, to thefe tabagies, filled with the fenators of the laudable Helvetic Body, a man who has long frequented fuch meetings becomes entirely unfit for all other fociety; he from thinks it an hardfhip to pafs an evening elfewhere, and terms all other company conftraint, becaufe it wants the eafe of a tavern, where tumult is fufficient for gaiety, and familiarity for friendfhip. But while in other places the tafte of clubs is confined to a few perfons, Bafil is a town of clubbifts, containing no lefs than twelve fmoking focieties, each compofed of about fixty members, who meet every afternoon at an early hour, drink tea amidft the exhilirating fumes of tobacco, difcufs the political fituation, but far more indefatigably the commercial affairs of the town, calculate the gains and loffes of the day, form new fchemes of acquiring wealth, and feparate at the hour of fupper before they have faid one word on any fubject of tafte, or literature.

"The ladies of Bafil, abandoned by the men, have recourfe to clubs alfo, and fometimes twenty ladies aflemble together without one man being of the party, although to fuch as prefent themfelves, admittance, far from being refufed, is even gratefully accorded; and fometimes a ftranger, taking advantage of the poflure of affairs at Bafil, which leads a coterie of young handfome women to confider his company as a favour, pays his homage to the ladies, while clouds of other incenfe are rifing in every quarter of the town from the tabagies where their abfent hufbands are convened.

"The female focieties of Bafil are formed from infancy of children of the fame age, and of the fame clafs; and during their childhood, the equality of years is fo ftrictly obferved in the focieties, that fifters, whofe ages differ three or four years, have their feparate coteries in the fame houfe. There is fomething foothing in the idea of thefe infant affociations; it feems forming another barrier for our helplefs fex againft the future tempefts of the world; and no doubt many a fair member of thefe young focieties, when aflailed by thofe ftorms of misfortune, which often beat with the moft pitilefs fury againft hearts that can leaft refift their violence, recalls with tender regret the focial circle of her childhood; and perhaps finds in the fympathy of fome female companion, to whom fhe is endeared by the charm of thofe early recol-

collections, a source of consolation and relief. The young unmarried women, and the dowagers, have all their distinct circles, sometimes increased by the admission of sisters-in-law, who become part of the family, and sometimes by the introduction of accidental acquaintance.

"They assemble by invitation successively at each other's houses, usually at three in the afternoon; an hour which, though morning, with respect to dinner, and all the busy occupations of life, at London and Paris, finds the day far advanced at Basil; where dinner is served when it is noon by the clocks of that city, which, for several centuries past, have kept vanguard of time, and for some reason, forgotten in the haste of ages, probably because not worth being remembered, strike twelve in defiance of common sense and convenience, when the solar shadow points eleven.

"The ladies present themselves at their coteries with their work bags upon their arms, and work and conversation keep together: the latter turns, from other uninteresting minds, upon the everyday gossip of ordinary life. When the domestic detail of household anecdote, and the tattle of town and tail, they flatten to ends—what other resource is left? Time cannot be thrown away, as often is in mixed societies, by the clutter of coquetry and the [illegible] of the fair, and by the [illegible] of the fair of libertinism [illegible]

"Where none admire, 'tis idle to [illegible]

"Where none are [illegible], 'tis vain to be a [illegible]

"At these assemblies the place of honour is at the window, to which, in every house at Basil, [illegible] are presented, as a reward to that person in the streets to [illegible] matters. These matters consulted every moment by the ladies of Basil, not to view themselves but their neighbours, would have mortified Thomson, had he been in that city, with more reason to his Castle of Indolence, or the Temple of mouldering time.

"Tea is brought at four in the afternoon, accompanied by a handsome collation, consisting of pastry, fruits, sweetmeats, and often of ham, and other cold meats. This substantial kind of refreshment is not found unacceptable after a very copious dinner, and with the perspective of a solid supper; the Swiss in general being possessed of a most powerful appetite, perhaps arising from the keenness of their mountain air. A dull game of commerce drags on the lingering hours till eight in the evening, when the ladies separate, after a profusion of compliments, which they have not yet relinquished for the French mode of gliding out of the room.

"Sometimes their Liege-Lords, the clubbists, make a sacrifice for one dear evening of smoke and stock jobbing, to the women: on these gala occasions, the card party concludes with a supper, sufficiently luxurious, but which might be more amusing; and as the law forbids any carriages to roll through the streets after eleven, the company mutually separate at that hour.

"Fathers and mothers of families, who have children married, fix one day of the week, which they call *leur jour de famille*, when all their offspring assemble at their house at dinner, sometimes to the fourth, fifth, and even sixth generation; for the women marry very young, and not long since there were not less than six ladies in Basil, whose grandchildren were grandmothers. There is something respectable, and even affecting in these patriarchal meetings; they seem a means of drawing closer those ties of consanguinity which are the best refuge against human ills; in which the purest affections of the heart mingle themselves with the wants and weakness of our nature; guiding with watchful tenderness the wanderings of youth, and supporting with unwearied care the feebleness of age.

"The public amusements of Basil were suspended by the magistrates, we were told, on account of the public calamities; the chief of which was the dearness of provisions: an evil the more easily to be born, as the town was then reaping an abundant harvest of gold from the calamities of other countries. Once a week, indeed, the duluess of a card assembly was permitted to replace that of the coteries; an occasional concert harmonized the soul; but dancing was a diversion too light for the times, and even a set of dancing-

dogs

dogs offending againſt the ſtatute, were formally expelled by the *Chaſſe-Coquin*, probably in conſequence of the general order of the Commiſſion of Six, inſtituted at that period for clearing the town of unprofitable ſtrangers."

Miſs Williams then draws a comparative view of the Spirit of Commerce in France before and ſince the Revolution, making ſome ſhrewd and ſenſible remarks on the ſyſtem of paper-money, which contributed to raiſe and cheriſh a new ſpirit of ſpeculation in that country; and concludes her ſecond Chapter with the following account of female traders, contractors, and negotiators:

"The moſt trifling purchaſe or tranſaction, at that period, had ſomething in it of foundling greatneſs; a pair of ſhoes coſt a thouſand livres, an ell of ribband five hundred; and as the women in France have even more active ſpirits than the men, every lady who had fifty, or a hundred thouſand livres in her pocket-book, conſidered herſelf as a fort of capitaliſt; and hearing inceſſantly from all parts, and in all directions, that commerce was the infallible road to wealth, immediately ſet up with thoſe ſolid funds ſome ſpecies of trade. One lady provided herſelf with a cargo of pocket handkerchiefs, another with an aſſortment of ſhoes; ſome ſold tallow candles, ſome wax; ſome dealt in powder, and others in ſnuff; but all had their little traffic, all were animated by the ſame reſtleſs ſpirit of gain. This ſpecies of commerce, however, was of fleeting duration. Sterne has obſerved, that Frenchmen conceive better than they combine; ſtill more juſtly may this obſervation be applied to French women; who, when they became adventurers in the new world of traffic, exulted in the rapid augmentation of their wealth; and were aſtoniſhed to find that the merchandize, which was to replace the funds, could no longer be purchaſed with the ſame capital; till at length they diſcovered, that their magnificent commercial profits were a fort of fairy-gold, which, when touched, turned to land; and that it was not the merchandize which had increaſed in price, but the aſſignats that had decreaſed in value.

"A few of the moſt beautiful and the moſt intriguing of the fair Pariſians, became the agents and emiſſaries of their friends, lovers, or huſbands, in the public offices; and the marine, the war, and the home departments, were filled with female contractors and negotiators, who, for the moſt part, found that Republican Committees made no better defence than poliſhed Courts, againſt the formidable artillery which French women know better how to wield, than the women of any other country. Miniſters and committaries felt the energy of arguments uttered by ruby lips, and the claims of a petition offered by a fair hand, of which the naked well ſhaped arm was gracefully ſtretched out; and, upon the whole, the women of France, to whom, by the conſtitutional act, all rights have been denied, find that they ſtill hold a tolerably deſpotic empire over their lords and maſters, the ſovereign people.

"Of a different claſs from theſe female negociators and merchants were thoſe women, who, once poſſeſſed of all that rank and fortune could beſtow, were now reduced to ſupply the preſſing wants of the moment, by a melancholy ſpecies of traffic; by ſelling various pieces of ornamental needlework, which they had been once taught to execute as an amuſement, or by making a profeſſion of thoſe arts which they had once acquired as the accompliſhments of an elegant education. Above all, drawing has proved an uſeful reſource in theſe circumſtances. Many a lady has found in her pencil, a means of ſubſiſtence for herſelf and family; many a finiſhed landſcape, deſtined to grace a cryſtal *boudoir*, or decorate a gilded pavilion, has ſerved to furniſh the fair artiſt with the crust of bread which, in ſome lonely garret, ſhe moiſtens with her tears."

The Life of Catharine II. Empreſs of Ruſſia. An enlarged Tranſlation from the French. 3 Vols. 8vo. Longman and Debrett.

THIS work is by no means to be conſidered, as a mere tranſlation from the French of Rabbierre and Segur; on the contrary, it is enlarged by more than one half by the learned tranſlator the Rev. Dr Tooke, who has reſided upwards of 20 years at St Peterſburgh as Chaplain to the Britiſh factory.

The curious and entertaining Anec-

dotes

dotes of Court intrigues, and of domeſtic occurences, in the reigns of the Empreſſes, *Elizabeth* and *Catharine*, are certainly, as our Author obſerves, "in general, new to the Engliſh reader." and, whether we take in the three Volumes ſeparately, or collectively, we are ſure of finding ſuch information and amuſement as cannot fail of meeting with that public approbation which he ſeems anxious to maintain.

It is intended to give a conciſe but comprehenſive *Analyſis* of the whole, in three different periods; following therein the proper diviſion of the ſubjects treated of, according to the Author's own arrangement.

Three preliminary Sections to Vol. I. introduce the reader to a general knowlege of the vaſt Empire of Ruſſia, as eſſentially neceſſary to the elucidation of its ſubſequent eventful hiſtory.

The extent, diviſion, population, and revenue of the Empire, are the ſubjects of the firſt Section; in which we are informed that Ruſſia actually occupies more than a *ſeventh* part of the known continent, and almoſt the *twenty-ſixth* part of the whole globe. Its greateſt extent from Weſt to Eaſt, viz. from 39½ to 207½ degrees of longitude, contains 168 degrees; and if the iſlands of the Eaſtern Ocean be included, it will then contain 185 degrees. The greateſt extent from North to South, that is, from the 77th to 50½ contains 27½ degrees of latitude; and this is eaſily aſcertained by inſpecting the correct Map preſixed to this Volume.

Such an extent of territory, one might be led to imagine, would give to the Sovereigns a preponderating weight in the political ſcale of Europe, which no union of two or three other great Nations could counterbalance; but this is far from being the caſe, for neither its population, nor its revenues, correſpond with the immenſe tracts of land it poſſeſſes. With reſpect to its population, the beſt Geographical writers differ widely in their calculations; but the beſt authorities fix it at 20,000,000; and even ſuppoſing it would yield this number, it would ſtill appear very trifling in compariſon with that of France or England. The diſproportion is accurately ſtated by our Author, and arithmetical tables are given, as well as quotations from the moſt celebrated writers, to ſupport and confirm his own obſervations. Upon the whole, it appears that if the population of Ruſſia was nearly equal to that of many other European countries, the number of its inhabitants would be 960,000,000, inſtead of 20,000,000.

"Till the year 1775, Ruſſia was divided into 23 Governments, containing in all about 540 Towns, 194 whereof were built in the reign of Catharine II." Theſe Governments are diſtinctly enumerated, and the population of each is annexed.

As for the Revenue, Mr Tooke eſtimates it at upwards of 40,000,000 of rubles.

Section II. treats of the Climate of Ruſſia in a very ample and curious detail, from which we ſhall take the liberty to extract a few general obſervations: "The temperature of the air and the weather in this prodigious Empire are as various as its circuit is extenſive. It compriſes many regions which enjoy the mildeſt ſky and the pureſt air; but ſtill more, where the weather is extremely rude and cold; and ſeveral, where the exhalations from the earth are not the moſt wholeſome. At *Oſtrog Volhinia*, 15 degrees more to the North than *Petersburgh*, on the 7th of December 1788, quickſilver in the open air froze to a ſolid maſs, on which ſeveral ſtrokes of a hammer were ſtruck before any parts fell off. Count Stenberg, during ſeven months reſidence at Peterſburgh, made the following remark: The firſt ſnow fell on the 20th of September, and the ſurface of the earth was not ſeen again till the 25th of April enſuing. The ſummer is moſtly fine: its longeſt day is *eighteen* hours and an *half*; and in the twilight of its beautiful nights it is eaſy to read and write at eleven o'clock."

Section III. gives an account of the Commerce of Ruſſia, which, as in moſt other countries, conſiſts of three branches: exports, imports, and exchanges. The annual amount of the imports at Peterſburgh for ten years, from 1782 to 1792; a ſpecification of the articles is noted from the cuſtom-houſe books, and the conſiderable increaſe of its foreign commerce is properly noticed. With reſpect to the domeſtic trade of the Capital, the reader will find anecdotes of a moſt extraordinary and intereſting kind relative to jewellers, millinerſs, taylors, ſhoemakers, carpenters,

dancing

dancing maſters, and hawkers, at Peterſburgh; many of which make large fortunes, keep carriages, and give balls and concerts at their houſes.

One inſtance of the luxury of the table at Peterſburgh, and of the profits of gardeners, is ſingularly curious; "Prince Potemkin dining one day with Count Chemichef, an experimental greenſeller announced himſelf with five cucumbers, which at that time of the year (early in the ſpring) were extremely rare; and the Prince being known to be particularly fond of them, the houſe ſteward took them of the man, and preſented them to his maſter, who was ſitting at table with the Prince. The cucumbers were devoured in a trice, and the Count ordered 100 rubles to be given to the owner, as a preſent for the agreeable ſurpriſe; but the boor who had already learned that his goods were irrevocably gone, rejected the preſent, and demanded the payment of 500 rubles, about 62 pounds ſterling, and was with great difficulty perſuaded to be contented with a ſmaller ſum." This Section cloſes with an account of the Weights and Meaſures which are fixed by the Government, and are exactly the ſame all over the Empire; a regulation much wanted in England.

It is now time to enter into the firſt part of the Hiſtory before us. It is divided into three chapters: the 1ſt relates the events previous to the Revolution of 1762; the birth and early years of Catharine II.; her marriage with the Grand Duke, afterwards Peter III.; and tranſactions to the death of the Empreſs Elizabeth. Of theſe, the moſt material for attaining a juſt knowledge of the remote cauſes which led to the dethronement and fatal cataſtrophe of the unfortunate Peter III. are the details of the intrigues of the ambitious and faithleſs courtiers of that Princeſs, to whoſe guidance ſhe weakly and implicitely ſubmitted: to this primary cauſe, more than to his own failings, we are to aſcribe his ruin. He was the only ſon of Anna Petrowna, eldeſt daughter of Peter the Great, married to Charles Frederick, Duke of Holſtein Gottorp, who died in 1739; ſo that Peter, in the 12th year of his age, was Duke of Gottorp: in 1741 he was recalled to Peterſburgh by his aunt, in order to be publickly declared her heir and ſucceſſor to the Imperial throne; and it is very remarkable, that nearly at the ſame time, on the demiſe of another aunt (Ulric Eleonora, Queen of Sweden,) he was elected King of Sweden, and a ſolemn embaſſy was ſent by the States to notify his election, which happened only two days after he had been ſolemnly proclaimed, at Moſcow, Grand Duke of Ruſſia, and ſucceſſor to the Empreſs Elizabeth.

In 1743 the Empreſs reſolved to provide him with a wife; and, being then on friendly terms with the great Frederick, King of Pruſſia, ſhe propoſed to marry him to one of the King's ſiſters; but Frederick declined the offer, and in his turn amicably recommended the Princeſs Sophia, of Anhalt Zerbſt, a diſtant relation of the Grand Duke's, and this propoſal was highly approved of by the Empreſs; thus the King of Pruſſia paved the way to the throne of Ruſſia for Catharine (the name given to her on her embracing the Greek religion, to qualify herſelf to be Grand Ducheſs). She was accompanied to Peterſburgh by her mother, the Dowager Princeſs of Anhalt Zerbſt, a woman of an intriguing diſpoſition, who could not fail in the end of exciting the jealous fears of the Empreſs; though at firſt ſhe received her with every mark of tender affection, owing to her fond remembrance of her brother, whom ſhe loved to exceſs, and to whom ſhe was on the point of being married, when that Prince was taken ill and died. Peter at this time was well made, of a very good figure, and the attachment between the young couple ſoon became reciprocal; preparations were therefore made for the celebration of the nuptials with a magnificence worthy of the heir of ſuch an Empire; but they were ſuſpended by the ſudden illneſs of the Grand Duke, which turned out to be the ſmall-pox, and of ſo malignant a kind, that his life was in great danger, and he ſurvived only to retain the moſt cruel marks of it; the comelineſs of his countenance being totally loſt, and his features hideouſly diſfigured. On his recovery, notwithſtanding every precaution, the young Princeſs could not reviſit him without feeling a ſecret horror; in his preſence, however, ſhe ſuppreſſed her emotions, and embraced him with all the tokens of ſincere joy; but no ſooner had ſhe

reached her own apartments, than she fell into a swoon, and remained insensible for three hours. The nuptials, however, were solemnized; but the mutual affection they had shewn for each other, from the first moment of their meeting, was not of long duration, nor was the alteration in her husband's face the sole cause; a secret natural uncommon defect changed love into disgust on the part of the bride, but they continued for some time to keep up appearances, which Catharine supported no longer than she conceived it necessary.

Here then was laid the foundation of the successive misfortunes that attended the future years of this ill fated Prince. As soon as the coldness between him and his wife became visible to all the Court, parties were formed, political and gallant intrigues commenced, and the disparity of the Prince and his consort became the topic of conversation. Catharine added to the beauty, and to the quickness of understanding, which she had received from nature, a very extensive knowledge; a facility of expressing herself with elegance in several languages; an affable disposition, and a graceful deportment. Peter had good sense, but his education was totally neglected; he had an excellent heart, but he wanted politeness; he was of a good stature, but ugly and almost deformed. He then had but little chance to establish a powerful influence with the women of the Court, while she had every charm to attract the notice, and insure the interest of the men.

Thus circumstanced, it is no wonder that the weak mind of Elizabeth was easily worked upon by artful courtiers, who discovered that the Empress began to consider him as her rival in the affections of her subjects. "If some few dared to lift up their voice in favour of the Prince, a great many others made themselves heard against him. Amongst the latter were the great Chancellor Bestucheff, who from the very day of Peter's marriage, had formed the design of excluding him from the throne. With this view both himself and his confidential friends made it their principal employment to blacken the Grand Duke in the eyes of Elizabeth, and they soon succeeded so far as to alarm her with fears that her nephew might become dangerous to her authority."

From this time the scenes of Court intrigue were expanded, and policy and gallantry went hand in hand, undermining poor Peter; his wife was seduced by Soltikoff, his own chamberlain, her first favourite; and Bestucheff, who countenanced this young minion "scarce outgrown the boy," rendered the Grand Duke so odious to Elizabeth, by charging him with vices unknown to him, and exaggerating his real failings, till an untire rupture was effected. The appointments of the Grand Duke were diminished; and, forbid the Court, he shut himself up in the country palace of Oranienbaum, and attached himself to Germans, particularly Holsteinus, which lost him the affections of the Russians; and in the mean time Catharine was employed in the capital in gaining partizans from among the most powerful persons of the Court, making even her pursuit of pleasurable amusements subservient to her ambition. The insolence of Soltikoff to the Russian Nobility occasioned his removal, by sending him on an embassy to Stockolm, and on his return he was met by a courier with dispatches ordering him to return to Hamburgh; from that city he corresponded privately with the Grand Duchess, soliciting her interest to get him recalled; but in vain, for Poniatowski, afterwards King of Poland, had succeeded him as her favourite. The conduct of Elizabeth is described by our Author in terms too indelicate for female readers; but it is necessary to exhibit the loose morals of the Court, which contributed not a little to favour the vicious propensities of the Grand Duchess. As for the Chancellor Bestucheff, he varied with the instant state of affairs, sometimes persecuting privately, and at others flattering the hopes of the Grand Duke, as he found the health of Elizabeth decline: at length his intrigues were discovered by the Empress; he was dismissed from his office, and sent into exile. The Grand Duke, who at first shewed great concern for the infidelities of his wife, now formed an attachment to the Countess Veront zoff, sister of the new Grand Chancellor; and this arrangement created new parties and fresh intrigues, which continued to agitate this disorderly Court; and added

ed to the infirmities of Elizabeth, haſtened her diſſolution. She expired on the 5th of January 1761. M.

(To be continued in our next.)

The German Miſcellany: conſiſting of Dramas, Dialogues, Tales, and Novels: Tranſlated from that Language, by A. Thomſon, Author of "A Poem on Whiſt."

THE Literature of Germany ſeems for ſome time to have taken the lead among the nations of Europe; and, while the ſtudies and ſerenity of her powerful neighbours are interrupted by the din of arms and the capricioufneſs of deſpotiſm, ſhe ſeems likely to maintain her ſuperiority. The French indeed have always exhibited too vain and volatile a character, to be expected to make any conſiderable progreſs in the ſeverer labours of the mind; and even in works of mere fancy and invention, their compoſitions have been more generally marked by vivacity and gaiety, than by ſound ſenſe and uſeful knowledge. In this, as well as in originality of thought, the Germans have commonly overpaſſed them; and while La Fontaine and Voltaire excite a momentary amuſement, we peruſe the pages of Geſner and of Klopſtock with repeated delight and veneration.

Under theſe circumſtances, a judicious ſelection from the works of German Authors muſt always be an acceptable preſent to the Engliſh reader. Nor has this fruitful field lain uncultivated: Poems, Romances, Letters, Hiſtories, written in the German Language, have aſſumed, and are every day aſſuming, an Engliſh dreſs; nor does our diligence confine itſelf to modern compoſitions only; the ſhelves of the learned are ranſacked for the diſcoveries of former days; and Leuwenhock, that celebrated Naturaliſt, ſo long and ſo juſtly admired for his microſcopic diſcoveries, but hitherto hardly known as a writer beyond the limits of his own country, is ſhortly to be introduced by the taſte and learning of Mr Samuel Hoole, to embelliſh and improve our Engliſh libraries.

The Work we are now conſidering is only a brief ſpecimen of what is farther intended, if this ſhould prove acceptable to the public. It is prefaced by a modeſt advertiſement, in which the Tranſlator juſtly obſerves, that if the pieces have merit, it will ſpeak for itſelf; if they have none, it is vain to ſpeak for them. He premiſes only, that, ſuppoſing the preſent ſelection to be favourably received, he has a ſufficient ſtore of original pieces by him, to furniſh ſeveral volumes of the ſame entertainment.

The Compoſitions contained in the Book before us, which is a thin octavo, are a kind of drama called The Indians in England, by Preſident Kotzebue:—The Nutſhell, a tale, from Meiſſner:—Sketches:—In what Language ſhould an Author write:—and Bianca Capello a dramatic narrative, both from the ſame Work:—The Hiſtory of Lamberg:—and The German Theatre at Venice, a true anecdote.

With reſpect to the drama, though it contains a great deal of good ſenſe and moral obſervation, and might, for ought we know, be very delightful to a German auditory, it muſt appear very improbable and incorrect to a Britiſh reader or ſpectator. The Author blunders, not for want of general knowledge of the working of the human mind, but from an injudicious choice of the ſcene in which he has choſen to diſplay his characters. If indeed he has ever been in this country, he has only viewed it with the eyes of a foreigner: he has even adventured to pourtray an Engliſh ſailor; a character ſo original, and at the ſame time ſo fleeting in its nicer peculiarities, that even the immortal Congreve's maſterly delineation of it is thought too coarſe a drawing for the archetype, as it appears in modern times. As to the reſt, that the exiled Nabob of Myſore ſhould live unknown and unſuſpected in a ſeaport town, and ſhould be willing to quite the faith of his forefathers, when he was no longer young, for the ſake of Lydia, the beautiful daughter of a decayed merchant; and that Curli, his daughter, however ſtored with good ſenſe, ſhould be able, in the extreme ſimplicity of youth, to aſſume the vivacity and liberty acquired by an European education; that Stuff and Struſſel, two notaries, ſhould fall to fiſticuffs upon the ſtage, (throwing off their hats and wigs) about the priority of right to draw up a marriage contract; and that Samuel, a ſurveyor of the cuſtoms, ſhould, from extreme caution, employ two lawyers to make this contract, without allowing them any com-

munication with each other: are improbabilities which will hardly be relished either on the ſtage, or in the cloſet. The character of Lady Smith, the proud wife of Sir John, of German extraction, is however delineated with accuracy and animation. Mr Kotzebue had probably many originals before his eyes in his own country, from which his copy might be taken; and he has availed himſelf ſkilfully of the advantage.

The Nut ſhell is an agreeable tale, in the manner of ſome of thoſe ſhort ſtories, which have been told with ſuch ſucceſs in The ſpectator, The Guardian, The Rambler, and The Adventurer. It is longer than our uſual limits will admit, and we ſhall only mutilate it by extracts. We have tried to give ſuch an abridgement as will exhibit all the more intereſting facts without intrenching upon our eſtabliſhed practice*.

Communications to the Board Agriculture. Vol. I. Parts III. and IV. 4to. 16s. Boards. *Nicol.*

OUR bounds admit of little more than barely announcing the ſubjects of the different communications which compoſe this volume. It opens with papers on the ſubject of roads; and the firſt communication on that point is from Robert Beatſon, of Kilrie, Eſq.

The ſecond paper is entitled, Obſervations on the Public roads of the Kingdom, and the Means of improving them; by Mr John Wright, of Chelſea.

The next paper is written by William Jeſſop, Eſq. It contains a few luminous hints reſpecting a ſurvey of this iſland, conducted with a view of promoting the extenſion of internal canals; the uſes that may be made of them for facilitating intercourſe and promoting the irrigation of lands; the conſtruction of roads; and the improvement of waggons.

J. F. Erſkine of Mar, Eſq; deſcribes, in the next paper, an Iron waggon-way, of an excellent conſtruction, made ſeveral years ago at Alloa, for the purpoſe of driving coals to an extenſive glaſs-houſe in that place.

Two ſhort papers, of little moment, on watering and weſſing roads, alſo occur under this head.

Part IV. conſiſts entirely of foreign communications to the Board.—The firſt under this head is from the Agricultural Society of Jerſey; and contains an account of the method of growing beans and parſnips in Guernſey and Jerſey. It appears that the inhabitants of theſe two iſlands have been in the practice, from time immemorial, of raiſing theſe two crops together on the ſame ground; with great benefit, as they think, to individuals as well as to the public. Parſnips are reckoned, by the writer of this paper, as the beſt winter food for cattle. Beef fattened in winter on hay and parſnips is ſaid to be better than that which has been produced in ſummer on graſs; and cows, that have been fed on hay and parſnips in winter, "yield butter of a fine yellow hue of a ſaffron colour, as excellent as if they had been in the moſt luxuriant paſture." It is repreſented alſo as being among the leaſt precarious crops that are known.

Next follows a memoir on the Agriculture of the Netherlands, by the Abbe Mann. In the richeſt and beſt cultivated land in Flanders, a common rotation of crops is, firſt year, hemp; ſecond, flax; the third, wheat; the fourth and fifth, rye; the ſixth, oats; and the ſeventh, clover, Turkey wheat, [which we ſuppoſe here means buck wheat,] turnips, or carrots; is it poſſible, they will ſay, that any practice can be more execrable?

The next paper is from M. Bertrand of Mechlin, relating to the rabbits of Angora.

Two long memoirs follow, on the Management of Sheep flocks in Germany; in which we meet with nothing that requires particular notice.

Baron Schultz gives next an accurate account of the Sheep of Sweden, and of the improvements that have taken place in conſequence of introducing into that kingdom, many years ago, a breed of Spaniſh ſheep of the fine woolled ſort.

The volume concludes with an Appendix, deſcribing the manner of erecting ſtrong and durable earthen walls, to the height of ſeveral ſtories, drawn up and preſented to the Board of Agriculture, by Henry Holland, Eſq.

NEW

* See January Magazine p. 37.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

LONDON.

Theology.

Comfort for the Feeble Minded: Three Sermons preached at the Chapel, Grub-Street. By John Bedford, A. B. 1s. 6d. *Trepals.*

A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Chichester, at the Primary Visitation, in the year 1798. By John, Lord Bishop of Chichester 2s. *Rivington.*

A New Edition, with new Plates, and a number of additional Notes, A Translation of the Latin and Greek Quotations, and a Life of the Author of Derham's Physico-Theology. 2 vols. 8vo. 14s. Boards. *Cadell jun. and Davies.*

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A Course of Mathematics, Vol. 2d. By Charles Hutton, L. L. D. F. R. S. Professor of Mathematics in the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. 8s. 6d. Boards. *Robinsons.*

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Reflections on the propriety of performing the Cæsarean Operation. To which are added, Observations on Cancer, and Experiments on the supposed Origin of the Cow Pox. By W. Simmons, Member of the Corporation of Surgeons in London, &c. 2s. 6d. *Verner and Hood.*

A Treatise on Sugar. By Benjamin Moseley, M. D. 5s. Boards. *Robinsons.*

An Outline of the History and Cure of Fever endemic and contagious, more expressly that of Jails, Ships, and Hospitals, and the (vulgarly called) Yellow Fever of the West Indies. To which is added, an Explanation of the Principles of Military Discipline and Economy, with a Scheme of Medical Arrangement for Armies. By Robert Jackson, M. D. 8vo. 7s. Boards. *Longman.*

Poetry.

Song of the Battle of the Nile, published for the Benefit of the Widows and Children of the brave men who fell on that memorable day. By the Rev. W. L. Bowles. 4to. 1s. 6d. *Cadell jun. and Davies.*

Theodore, or the Gamester's Progress, a Poetic Tale; with Frontispiece, engraved by Neagle. 2s. 6d. *Vernor and Hood.*

Drama.

Aurelio and Miranda, A Drama, as performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, founded on the Romance of the Monk. By James Boaden, Esq; 2s. *Bell.*

Historical Memoir on Italian Tragedy, illustrated with specimens and analyses of the most celebrated tragedies, and interspersed with observations on the Italian Theatre, and Biographical Notices of the principal Tragic Writers of Italy. By a Member of the Arcadian Academy at Rome; with 13 engravings. 1l. 1s. Boards.

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POETRY.

POETRY.

FOR THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

MARY'S CONFLICT*.

Air—*Captain O'Kean.*

SAD, sad was the hour to Mary loud-wailing,
When Billy embark'd for a far-distant shore;
No sweet-smiling hope could expel the dire presage,
That in her fond arms she shall fold him no more.
By the blue stream of Glatta oft wander'd the maiden,
Her breast throb'd with anguish, and fast fell the tear;
While from her white bosom she tore Billy's image,
And kiss'd with fond passion the relic so dear.
"Play softly ye breezes," she cried, "round the Herot,
Which bears all that's dear—my sweet Billy from me.
Swell gently her canvas, and waft her in safety,
From Gallia's proud sons, o'er the wide-rolling sea.
And O every Angel! propitious attend him,
And shed sweetest blessings around Billy's head:
And O soon restore him!—in mercy restore him;
Nor let me go mourning to death's chilly bed."
But oh! how the heart-rending tale shall I utter?
—No more on thy bosom shall Billy recline;
For in the deep ocean entomb'd is thy Billy;
And no star of eve on his grave shall e'er shine.—
"Shall Mary then ne'er meet again with her Billy?
Shall hope whisper peace to her bosom no more?"—
Yes—Mary *shall* meet again with her Billy;
Meet—*never to part*—on a happier shore.

Glasgow College,
Feb. 20. 1799. J. F.

* Written as a tribute of respect to the memory of a young gentleman, who was lost in his passage to the West Indies.

† The name of the vessel.

FOR THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

IMITATION OF CATULLUS.

Solis occidere, et redire possunt:
Nobis, cum semel occidit brevis lux, &c.
CAT. 5.

THE sun may set, and close the splendid day,
Yet soon shall glad the earth with orient ray;
But ah! when sets our short uncertain light,
We, dearest maid, must sleep an endless night.
Then let us pluck, while in their golden prime,
The balmy flowers of youth, nor sport with rapid time;
For time deforms the honours of the face,
This wrinkles sheds, and withers ev'ry grace.

Edinburgh College. D. I.

INSCRIPTION

Upon the Monument lately erected in Chichester Cathedral to the Memory of the Unfortunate Collins.

By Messrs Sargent and Hayley.

YE who the merits of the dead revere,
Who hold misfortune sacred, genius dear,
Regard this tomb where Collins' hapless name
Solicits kindness with a double claim.
Tho' nature gave him, and tho' science taught
The fire of fancy, and the reach of thought,
Severely doom'd to penury's extreme,
He pass'd, in madd'ning pain, life's fev'rish dream;
While rays of genius only serv'd to shew
The thick'ning horror, and exalt his woe.
Ye walls that echo'd to his frantic moan
Guard the due records of this grateful stone;
Strangers to him, enamoured of his lays,
This fond memorial to his talents raise,
For this the ashes of a bard require
Who touch'd the tenderest notes of Pity's lyre,
Who join'd pure faith to strong poetic powers,
Who in reviving reason's lucid hours
Sought on one book his troubled mind to rest,
And rightly deem'd the book of God the best.

FOR THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

An APPEAL *to the* LORDS *of* SESSION, *For the Writers Clerks.*

O! Lords of Session hear the clerks appeal,
And listen to our rude but earnest verse,
Behold a suppliant band before you kneel,
Indignantly, their sorrows to rehearse.

You

You fill the higheſt ſeats of Scottiſh law,
And when your deeds are handed down by fame,
'Twill not detract, my Lords, from your *eclat*,
To ſay you liſtened to our humble claim.

O'er many a dreary page for twopence each,
The ſlexile pens, our wearied fingers guide,
Our maſters raging oft, with haughty ſpeech
To humble our, and ſatisfy their pride.

While every tradeſman in Britannia's iſle,
Has raiſed his labour as the taxes ſwell,
We, for the ancient price, muſt daily toil,
And are condemn'd in poverty to dwell.

The brave old Romans bred in honour's ſchool,
True virtue did with poverty combine,
But we muſt follow modern faſhions rule,
And pinch our meals, to make our perſons fine.

We ſpent our gains, your fortunes to protect,
To ſave your perſons from proud Gallia's hand,
And we, with humble confidence, expect
A favour'd hearing to our juſt demand.

Whet tho' our dreſs is neat, our aſpect gay,
And diſſipation drags us in her train,
It only is, a falſe, illuſive ray,
To hide from ſtrangers eyes, our toils and pain.

Convivial meetings grant a kind relief,
To check the anguiſh of corroding care;
Thus we, my Lords, are urg'd to fly from grief,
And from the gloomy preſſure of deſpair.

But ruin follows, ſoon the pallid cheek,
And hollow eye explain the dire diſeaſe;
From pain, from ſorrow, from misfortune bleak,
The grave at laſt affords eternal eaſe.

Full many a youth of parts and genius bland,
In penury's chill glade neglected lyes,
Would you, my Lords, ſtretch forth your powerful hand,
To hope, to fame, to fortune might they riſe.

One penny more, for every page, we aſk,
And ſure, my Lords, it is a modeſt claim,
'Twould ſmooth the labours of our daily taſk,
'Twould add freſh laurels your Lordſhips fame.

To our petition yield a willing ear,
Indulgent liſten to our ſimple lay,
Aſſenting voices, grant that we may hear,
And your petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

A.

THE DECEMBER DAY.

"ADVERSITY'S long day appears,
Engloom'd by tearful grief;
No cheering ſound of joy it hears,
'Tis ſenſeleſs to relief.

"Adverſity's long year is roll'd
With one dark ſeaſon round;
Recover'd bloom no ſprings unfold,
No autumn fruits are found.

"Adverſity's ſad tedious life
Sighs long with ſorrows breath;
Preſent is woe's tempeſtuous ſtrife,
Diſtant the rays of death."

Thus ſang a youth to griefs long known
(December cloſed the year),
When lo, the ſudden ſunbeams ſhone
With mild effulgence clear.

The ſtreams encurv'd with wintry breeze,
In ſportive brightneſs play'd;
And all the ſnow envelop'd trees
Gliſten'd with gems array'd.

The clouds with ſilver radiance bright
Sail'd thro' the lucid ſky,
Ten thouſand tints of joyful light
Struck the aſtoniſh'd eye.

And from her cell fair Nature roſe,
Mantl'd with drifted ſnow;
Ice-drops upon her crown were froze,
A pearl reſembling row.

A lyre within her hand ſhe held,
Of ſoul-ſubduing ſound:
She ſang—all *living* was compell'd
To mute attention round.

But ah, the numbers of her verſe
To other bards belong;
My ſimple lines would but rehearſe
The tenor of her ſong.

"Mortals (ſhe cried), the life I give,
Why thus with grief annoy?
There is no day thro' which you live,
But has its hour of joy.

"E'en winter has its chearful glow,
Its noon with bliſful ſmiles;
E'en this dark ſeaſon of my woe
With ſhort delight beguiles.

"Learn Mortals! learn, that even pain
Has moments that may pleaſe;
That years of labour ſtill contain
Their days of peace and eaſe.

"Engloom not life with mournful tears,
But watch for pleaſure's ray;
Seize the bright moment which it chears,
And hold it while you may."

T.

TO A FRIEND;

On her having ſuffered a dangerous Illneſs in the Winter, and recovered from it in the Spring[*].

WINTER frowns o'er Stella's head,
Sickneſs hovers round her bed;
Tears of anguiſh fill her eyes,
Painful ſorrows force her ſighs.

Spring returns and balmy gales;
Stella the breath of health inhales:
Diſeaſe withdraws its pallid hues,
The bluſh of health her cheek renews.

Welcome then bright ſun of May!
Warm to my heart I feel thy ray!
Not that new-born pleaſures ſprings,
Not that Philomela ſings:

Not that ſtreams unfetter'd flow,
Not that fragrant zephyrs blow:
Not that rapture fills the groves,
That am'rous ſongſters chaunt their loves:

Not that light revives my hours,
Nor that its beams expand my flowers;
Not for the joy its influence gives;
But that my friend—my Stella lives!

Alas! had death's cold hand o'erſpread
That valu'd face and ſunk that head!
No Spring my ſorrows had beguil'd,
Thy friend had wept—though Nature ſmil'd.

[*] From Poetic Trifles, by Mrs Moody, lately publiſhed.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

(*Continued from p.* 59.)

Income Bill.

Dec. 19. The Houſe reſolved itſelf into a Committee on the income bill.—*Mr Smith* in the Chair.

Mr Pitt ſtated to the Committee, that he ſhould, when the other clauſes had gone through the Committee, ſubmit one for extending the allowances made to perſons having a certain number of children. *Mr Pitt* ſaid, alſo, that when the bill had paſſed the Committee, he ſhould have to propoſe, for their conſideration, ſome clauſes the object of which would be, *to alter to a certain extent the mode of inquiring into the income of perſons engaged in commercial concerns.* He had received intimations from very reſpectable quarters, of the great inconveniences that might occur to commercial men from too great a diſcloſure of their property, and at the ſame time he had received ſome ſuggeſtions of alterations in the mode of collecting the tax, as far as related to commercial perſons, which would not only obviate all the inconveniences that might ariſe from diſcloſure, but would alſo improve and ſecure the revenue which it was propoſed to raiſe, an object which, he was ſure, thoſe from whom thoſe ſuggeſtions came had much at heart. The means which he ſhould propoſe to the Houſe, in order to prevent that publicity which it would be extremely deſirable to avoid if it could be done conſiſtent with the public intereſt, he would ſhortly ſtate to the Committee. The Committee would recollect, that with reſpect to that ſpecies of property, about the diſcovery of which there did not exiſt ſo much jealouſy as about commercial property, the mode propoſed to be adopted was, that the individual ſhould deliver a general notice to the Commiſſioners of what he conceived ought to be the amount of his contribution; that the Surveyors had then power to call for a ſchedule of his property, according to the preſented form, and that a ſubſequent opportunity was then given for the examination of that ſchedule. The firſt modification he had to propoſe was, that inſtead of enabling the Surveyor to call upon the party for the production of a ſchedule of his property, the Surveyor ſhould not have that power, unleſs the majority of the Commiſſioners were of opinion that ſuch ſchedule ought to be produced. He ſtated this with reſpect to the ordinary mode of proceeding; but when it came to be applied to commercial men, it would be found practicable to adopt a more ſpecial mode of enquiry, by which a greater degree of ſecrecy might be preſerved. In the firſt place, he ſhould propoſe to allow any perſon in trade, inſtead of making his return through the medium of the common aſſeſſor, to make it ſe-

cretly to commercial Commiſſioners, ſpecially appointed for that purpoſe. In the next place, he ſhould propoſe that aſſiſtants ſhould be appointed out of the mercantile body, theſe aſſiſtants being ſworn to ſecrecy, to whom the Commiſſioners might have recourſe, for the purpoſe of making an enquiry into the ſituation of any perſon. The Commiſſioners would then have an opportunity of conſulting with theſe aſſiſtants, whether the party was in a condition to pay a greater ſum than that which he had given in as his proper ſhare; and if they thought that he ought to pay a greater ſum, then he might be called upon to produce a ſchedule of his income. If the majority of the Commiſſioners did not think it neceſſary that the ſchedule ſhould be produced, in that caſe the party ſhould not be called upon to produce it; but if the majority ſhould be of another opinion, the examination was to proceed in the manner preſcribed by the bill. By the adoption of this mode, that degree of publicity which was deemed ſo inconvenient would be avoided. When the aſſeſſment was thus made, inſtead of having the reſult of the Commiſſioners judgment made public by returning it to the common collector, the Commiſſioners were to keep ſecret books, in which there were to be numbers correſponding to the names of the individuals aſſeſſed. A certificate was then to be given to the individuals ſtating the amount of his aſſeſſment, and ſtating the number which was oppoſite to his name in the Commiſſioners private books, but without mentioning his name. Upon this certificate he might pay his aſſeſſment, either by himſelf or by his agent, to any of the Receivers, or into the Bank, for which he was to receive a receipt, not ſtating his name, but the number of his certificate; and upon the production of that receipt to the Commiſſioners, they were to write off his name againſt his number in their private books. In caſes where a perſon having received the certificate of the amount of his aſſeſſment, did not pay it within the preſcribed time, then ſuch a perſon was to be proceeded againſt publicly, becauſe, by his own default of payment, he rendered ſuch a ſtep neceſſary. This was very ſhortly the nature of the clauſes which he ſhould have the honour to propoſe. He had the greateſt confidence that the meaſures he had ſtated to the Committee would meet the views and ſuit the convenience of commercial men, at the ſame time that it would by no means injure, but on the contrary rather increaſe the public revenue. His confidence on this ſubject was the greater, not only becauſe the ſuggeſtion came from men of good experience, but becauſe he knew that a ſimilar plan had been adopted with ſucceſs in a caſe in which the delicacy of diſcloſure was even greater than in the preſent inſtance. He alluded to the aid which Parliament, in the year 1793, afforded to commercial men, by iſſuing Exchequer bills, on account of ſome temporary embarraſſments and difficulties which exiſted at that period. The iſſuing theſe bills was conducted in the mode now propoſed, viz. by numbers correſponding with names kept in private books. He believed that, upon that occaſion, except when the parties themſelves did not think it neceſſary to preſerve the ſecret, neither thoſe who received the aſſiſtance, nor the ſums which they received, were ever known. By the adoption of the mode he had thus ſuggeſted, any perſon who choſe might be releaſed from a diſcovery.

Colonel Wood thought, that if the Houſe made ſuch favourable regulations for commercial men, every merchant, banker, and trader, ſhould be obliged to balance his books at a certain time of the year, in order to facilitate the collection of the revenue.

Mr Alderman Curtis expreſſed great ſatisfaction at what had fallen from the Right Hon. Gentleman. It was his wiſh to ſee the preſent meaſure carried into effect, and to give all the aſſiſtance in his power to it. But he could not have given his aſſent to the compelling mercantile men to make public diſcoveries of their property; however, he was now completely ſatisfied upon that head by what had fallen from the Right Hon. Gentleman. With reſpect to the the ſecrecy obſerved in iſſuing the aids in 1793, he was one of the Commiſſioners upon that occaſion, and knew that the moſt perfect ſecrecy had been preſerved.

Mr Jones ſuggeſted, that the Commiſſioners, in violating their oath of ſecrecy, ought to be liable to the penalties of perjury.

Sir

Sir Francis Baring was proceeding to point out ſome remarks, when he was called to order by the chairman, who ſaid there was no queſtion then before the Committee. He was proceeding to read the clauſe, when

Mr Tierney ſaid, that if it was the intention of the Right Hon. Gentleman to move the printing of the new clauſes which he had announced his intention to propoſe, he thought the better way would be for the Chairman to report progreſs, and aſk leave to ſit again when the clauſes were printed, by which means Gentlemen would be much better able to diſcuſs the ſubject. The new clauſes which were to be propoſed, appeared, from the Right Hon. Gentleman's ſtatement, to be calculated entirely to ſuit the feelings of commercial men, by preventing their property from being diſcloſed. There was no regulation in favour of landed gentlemen, who might be dragged through the dirt, while the trader was not to have his books examined. Merchants, bankers, &c. were to be allowed the privilege of chuſing their own Commiſſioners, or in other words, to tax themſelves, a conceſſion which, he thought, would deſtroy the effect of the meaſure.

Mr Pitt ſaid, he could not admit that the whole of what had fallen from the Hon. Gentleman was marked with the ſame ſpirit of candour as his propoſitions for printing the additional clauſes. It certainly was his intention to propoſe that the additional clauſes ſhould be printed, and he had no doubt that they would be found calculated to remedy the inconvenience of diſcovery to commercial men, an inconvenience which did not apply to Gentlemen of landed property, and that by granting them this convenience, the meaſure, ſo far from being weakened, would be improved, and the collection increaſed.

The Chairman then read the three clauſes.

Mr Plomer aſked whether it was intended that the Commiſſioners under this act ſhould receive any ſalary?

Mr Pitt replied, that undoubtedly the trouble to which this act would put the Commiſſioners deſerved remuneration; at the ſame time, it was not his intention to propoſe any allowance of ſalary; and he doubted not but that, independent of every pecuniary emolument, they would do their beſt endeavours for the good of the country.

The powers to be granted by certain proviſions of the bill to the Surveyors and Commiſſioners underwent ſome irregular and deſultory diſcuſſion.

Theſe clauſes, with the amendments propoſed, were then agreed to by the Committee.

Theſe proviſions of the bill, which involved the important point of diſcloſure of income, being arrived at,

Mr Wigley roſe, and in a few words expreſſed his decided diſapprobation of them, and avowed his intention of taking the ſenſe of the Committee thereon.

The Maſter of the Rolls defended the principle with great ability. The proviſions in queſtion, he concluded by obſerving, involved the whole object and ſcope of the bill.

Mr Tierney thought the propoſed meaſure objectionable in every point of view, it would be infinitely better, he ſaid, for the country, that a milder mode ſhould be adopted, even were a few millions leſs obtained, than by the mode in queſtion.

Mr Pitt obſerved, that a conſiderable ſum might be raiſed without reſorting to the means propoſed by the bill; but a ſum falling very ſhort indeed of what was intended to be raiſed by the bill, or what was neceſſary for the public ſervice. The proviſions, if adopted, were not ſtronger than the neceſſity of the caſe required; and without them, the evaſions which were notoriouſly practiſed hitherto, could never be obviated. There was a material difference between a partial diſcloſure made to a certain ſet of ſelect perſons, and a diſcloſure made public to the world. Feeling for the proviſions as he did, he muſt certainly preſs their adoption in the Committee.

A diviſion then took place, when there appeared for the clauſe containing the proviſions, 80; againſt it, 4—Majority, 76.

Thoſe proviſions of the bill, which veſted the power of reviſion, &c. in a ſecond ſet of Commiſſioners, on being appealed to from the deciſion of the the firſt, &c. being taken into conſideration,

Mr Tierney expreſſed his decided diſapprobation of the meaſure. It went to deſtroy, he ſaid, the only thing

which could render the bill palatable to the country; it was lodging the power of decision in Commissioners appointed by the Grand Juries.

Mr Pitt contended that no ill effects could arise from it, it was essentially necessary. Added to this, the power of appeal was open to both parties.

After a short explanatory conversation the Committee divided, and there appeared

For the clause	-	59
Against it	- -	9
Majority		—50.

The chairman was then ordered to report progress, and ask leave to sit again; which being done, the House ordered the Committee to resume its proceedings to morrow.

The Committees of Supply and Ways and Means were deferred.

The remaining orders of the day were then postponed; and at half past one o'clock the House adjourned.

Parliamentary Reports.

20. *Mr Wilberforce* complained that it had become systematical with certain of the morning papers, during the last four years, uniformly to misrepresent his observations in that House. He was confident this must proceed from design, the mischief whereof was apparent. He was sufficiently aware of the capability of those who furnished the public with the occurrences of that House, ever to imagine they could proceed from inadvertency, not but in either case the House was thrown into contempt, and he as an individual thereof held up to the ridicule and disgust of his constituents. No, he was convinced it proceeded from deliberate design; he had, however, the gratification of assuring its authors, that their views were frustrated, his constituents were convinced of the consistency of his deportment there; and he had no necessity of appealing to them, or his own conscience, for the principles he supported since he had the honour of a seat in that House. The Hon. Gentleman then adverted to recent reports of his speeches. He noticed some remarks made by an Hon. Member opposite (Mr Tierney), which were given at full length, whilst words were put in his mouth, and sentiments in his mind, that he neither used nor entertained, in his reply to that Hon. Gentleman on the occasion to which he alluded. All this he submitted to the House as matter for their consideration. At present he would make no motion, but simply rest the matter, and leave it with the House, that it might either now assert its own dignity, or support its privilege of excluding strangers, as future events might render necessary. They were the best judges whether the proceedings of that House were to be given *ex parte*, and partially perverted, or whether faithfully and generally, or prohibited entirely.

Nothing followed on this speech.

Mr Pitt moved for leave to bring in a bill to continue the suspension of the habeas corpus act.

Leave being given, Mr Pitt brought up the bill, which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to morrow.

Tax on Income.

The House then resolved into a Committee on this bill—*Mr Smith* in the Chair.

Several clauses were then proceeded on; that giving the power to Surveyors to appeal from the decision of the first Committee, was amended by Mr Pitt, by adding these words, "That in all cases were the first set of Commissioners agreed in favour of the statement delivered in by the individual, the Surveyor should have no right of appeal to the second set of Commissioners, but that the decision made by the first should be final." Concerning this a conversation of some length took place, between Colonel Wood, Mr Elliot, Mr Pitt, and Mr Wilberforce, the last of whom conceived it to be *too conceding* on the part of the Ministers, and thought the Surveyors should be entitled to appeal in behalf of the Crown, as well as the individual.

The clause, as amended, was however agreed to, and thereby the Surveyor is properly deprived of the right of appeal against the decision of the first set of Commissioners, when it happens to be in favour of the individual.

On the introduction of a clause, objected to by Mr Tierney, and supported by the Solicitor General, the former Gentleman stated, in rather strong terms, that it was not unlikely but the Learned Member would alter his opinion concerning it, nay even adopt the very

very ſentiments he then rejected, as occurred already to-night, wherein that Gentleman cancelled a reſolution carried laſt night by means of numbers, and this night yielded to the very advice he (Mr Tierney) offered on that occaſion, and which the Honourable and Learned Gentleman at that period viciouſly reſiſted.

The Solicitor-General replied, that the oppoſition given by the Hon. Gentleman to every meaſure offered on this ſide of the Houſe, aroſe not ſo much from a wiſh of performing a relative duty, but for the ſake of gaining a little popularity.

Mr Ryder ſpoke to the ſame effect, but with more aſperity.

Mr Tierney anſwered, if he had entertained motives ſo unworthy as theſe imputed to him, inſtead of giving his humble aid to render this odious meaſure at all palatable, he would purſue a different line of conduct. He would ſit in ſilence, and leave it to its authors to digeſt it at will.

This brought up *Mr Pitt*, who, in terms pointed and ſtrong, denied that the conceſſion of his Learned Friend, in the caſe ſtated by the Hon. Gentleman, proceeded from any advice he tendered on that head; he charged him, and reiterated it, with uſing ſiniſter means, of obtaining, or rather canvaſſing for popularity, and of attempting it at every other Gentleman's expence, without the ſubſtantial title of deſerving it. He concluded with aſſuring the Hon. Gentleman, that if he was reſolved on continuing this kind of depredation on other mens intellects and zeal, he would ultimately find the reſult of his deſigns would be the reverſe of his expectations.

Mr Tierney calmly anſwered, that he was there a repreſentative of the people, and in that character endeavoured, as far as in him lay, to ſupport his rights, and perform his own duty; in the execution of which he had frequently the misfortune of perceiving, that he became the butt and laughing-ſtock of the Treaſury Phalanx. How far this was commendable or becoming, the world would judge. He then concluded with ſaying, "This point I will not now urge farther than cordially adviſe the Right Hon. *Profeſſor*, not to goad me with a *ſecond lecture* this night."

On the clauſe being read, impoſing the ratio of taxation on landed income, and the differences thereof, ſtating, that the tenant paying rack-rent ſhould be charged for his yearly income but at three-fourths thereof, whilſt the landlord, tilling his own land, ſhould pay double (that is, be rated for his charge at a year and a half,) an amendment was propoſed, that a year and a quarter be ſubſtituted, on which a diviſion took place,

For the year and a half,	48
Againſt it, -	32
Majority,	—16

Progreſs was then reported, and the Chairmen had leave to ſit again.

It is underſtood that the whole of the clauſes will be gone through at the next ſitting; the bill in its then ſtate be printed, and Wedneſday next be appointed to take the whole into conſideration.

21. *Mr Pitt* ſaid, that under the exiſting circumſtances he conſidered it neceſſary that the bill empowering his Majeſty to confine perſons ſuſpected of conſpiring againſt his crown and government, ſhould remain in force till next ſeſſion. He therefore moved for leave to bring in the bill, which was agreed to; and the bill read a firſt time, and ordered to be read a ſecond time next day; when, after a ſhort debate between Meſſrs Courtney, Tierney, Dundas, and the Attorney-General, (in which its continuance was limited to the 21ſt of May,) the ſecond reading was carried by 69 againſt 6.

On the ſame day Mr Dundas moved for leave to bring in a bill to exempt the volunteer corps, on certain conditions, from being liable to ſerve in the ſupplementary militia. He ſtated that, laſt year, the force of the kingdom conſiſted of 140,000 men, infantry and cavalry; out of that force 35,000 men have been ſent out of the country; but, in conſequence of the zeal of the volunteer corps, the force of the kingdom amounted now to 210,000 men. The Houſe would eſtimate according to the ſervices of the volunteers, and could have no poſſible objection to this motion.—Leave was given to bring in the bill.

Breach of Privilege.

27. *Mr Tierney* roſe to make a complaint againſt the paper called the Times, of the 26th, for a miſrepreſen-

ſentation of what paſſed in the Houſe on Saturday laſt. This cauſe of complaint againſt the Times, Mr Tierney ſtated to be, that four days after the debate, the attention of the public was called to the circumſtance by a long detail of four columns, in which his (Mr Tierney's) ſpeech, and all that paſſed on the occaſion, was entirely perverted, and mixed with all the editor's political remarks. This he conſidered as highly indecorous; but unleſs the Houſe chuſe to interfere, he did not mean to preſs the matter further.

The Speaker remarked, that, by a ſtanding rule of that Houſe, no editor of a newſpaper was at liberty to give any account at all of the proceedings of that Houſe. Several complaints of this ſort had, upon former occaſions, been laid before the Houſe in different forms: but it was neceſſary that the complaint ſhould be expreſsly ſtated before any order of that Houſe could be made in conſequence.

The foundation of the complaint, if brought before the Houſe, muſt be a violation of one of its ſtanding orders, which forbade the publication of its proceedings. In the year 1771, ſomething ſimilar had occurred; and then the complaint brought forward was twofold; the firſt, for publiſhing an account of the debate, and the ſecond for miſrepreſenting the debate.

After ſome converſation between *Mr Tierney* and *the Speaker*, the latter ſuggeſted the following motion, which was made and ſeconded—

"Complaint having been made of the print called the Times, of the 26th December inſt. as containing an account of the debates of this Houſe, and miſrepreſenting the ſpeeches of certain Members, in contempt of the orders, and in breach of the privileges of this Houſe, a motion was made by a Member, in his place (Mr Tierney), that the paper complained of be delivered in at the table and read."

After Mr Pitt, Mr Dundas and ſome other Members had ſaid a few words. The newſpaper was given in to the clerk by Mr Tierney.

The Speaker deſired the Hon. Gentleman to ſelect the paſſages in which he conceived himſelf to have been miſrepreſented.

Mr Tierney ſaid he was not prepared to ſtate the particular paſſages.

The Speaker ſtated, that if the Hon. Gentleman was not then, the Houſe would perhaps think it proper to poſtpone the further conſideration of the ſubject; which was put off till Monday.

28. The bill for ſuſpending the habeas corpus act was read a third time, paſſed, and ſent to the Houſe of Lords.

Breach of Privilege.

31. *Mr Tierney* ſaid, that it was his intention to move that the order of the day for the farther conſideration of the complaint he had made on a former evening of the breach of privilege, ſhould be diſcharged. No man could wiſh more than himſelf to ſee the dignity of that houſe aſſerted on all neceſſary occaſions; but it having been ſtated in the *Times*, on the day following the debate on the article complained of, that it was not the wiſh of its conductors to miſrepreſent, but only to publiſh what they thought a more correct report of the converſation that had paſſed in that houſe on the evening of the Saturday before, he could have no wiſh to ſubject the editor or proprietors of that paper to hardſhip. He believed the paper was ſent to the office of the *Times* by ſome perſon of diſtinction, and it was only of the republication of the converſation alluded to of which he ever felt diſpoſed to complain. This re-publication totally changed the character of the offence; for if any inaccuracies obtained in the report publiſhed the morning following a debate, they would moſt probably be detected by comparing the different papers one with the other. He would not particularly ſelect the parts of the paper he complained of, and ſhould therefore move that the order be diſcharged.

Mr Windham obſerved, that not knowing the contents of the paper, and not being preſent at the diſcuſſion of which it affected to be a report, he was without the means of judging of the nature of the complaint. He muſt, therefore, take it wholly on the ſcore of privilege. This was the queſtion then before the Houſe. Whatever connivance the Houſe might have formerly ſhewn to the breach of its privilege, with reſpect to the reports given of its proceedings in the newſpapers, certainly it could not be a queſtion, that

that, when a formal complaint was made, the Houſe would not be doing its duty if it did not take that notice of it which became the dignity of Parliament. But that the Houſe ſhould proceed to puniſh the editor of one paper for a breach of its privileges, while the ſame offence was committed daily by every paper, was not what he could recommend. Without being a conſtant reader of newſpapers, he had often met with many things that in a marked manner deſerved to be reprobated, and every day the evil was advancing in its growth with a malignity of aſpect that muſt excite horror. Only a very ſhort time ſince, he had read a paper which contained an offence of the moſt malignant nature, an offence not againſt one member of that Houſe, but generally againſt all. Nay every thing ſacred and venerable in the country, whether as it belonged to the characters of men or the genius of inſtitutions, had been derided and held up to ſcorn. Hence it was not poſſible to proceed againſt one paper without taking notice of every paper that was publiſhed, and the exiſtence of the evil, demanding extenſively a remedy, loudly called upon the Houſe to take ſome ſteps at the preſent moment. To have connived even for a conſiderable period at any breach of privilege was not ſanctioning that outrage; and if the Houſe had hitherto not condeſcended to take cognizance of the conduct of ſuch perſons, when the queſtion was, whether it would aſſert its own dignity, moſt certainly it would ſhow the world that it was not to be inſulted nor its order diſregarded with impunity. If the breach of its privileges were not noticed by the Houſe, the public would think the Legiſlature did not mean to do any thing to aſſert its own dignity; that the newſpapers might go on in the uninterrupted practice of their offence; that becauſe a breach of privilege has been connived at once, it is to go on ſo for ever. He knew there were many gentlemen who looked down upon offences of this ſort with an air of indifference, and making a ſhew of their wiſdom, profeſſed not to mind ſuch trifles. Nothing more truly characteriſed indolence, or a ſettled plan for the ſubverſion of an inſtitution, than the indifference of its members about its rights, and the preſervation of its character. The indolent might be leſs feared, becauſe their habits deprived them of power and activity to do miſchief; but in the preſent ſtate of the world was it not to be apprehended that the enemies of all order and of all good government increaſed in active preparations to deſtroy, as the other deſcription grew inattentive to preſerve? It was that ſort of indifference which the charitable and wiſe members of that Houſe appeared on all occaſions to regard offences againſt its dignity, that in France led gradually to that change which produced thoſe calamities which humanity muſt for ever deplore, which the whole European world had felt at its very centre, and in a twelvemonth laid in ruins the whole fabric of the ancient and venerable Monarchy of that country. He who ſhould ſtudy well the human character in its accidents and changes, would readily perceive with how undeviating direction the affairs of nations, increaſing in perplexity and aſſuming a menacing aſpect, marched on to ruin, as the individual began to treat lightly what were held to be ſmall offences, as thoſe to whom the public looked with reſpect. The whole ſyſtem of life would ſhew men how certainly little vices generated great ones; ſmall beginnings have grown to enormous maſſes; that ſparks will kindle flames potent enough to deſtroy; that minute, and in the beginning almoſt imperceptible contempts of authority, even the half-formed ſeed of ridicule, ſown with an apparent indifference, and in a ſoil that unwillingly yields any obnoxious plant, may in time multiply and ſhoot up to a number and ſtature that are to diſſolve whole communities together. If the practice was permitted to prevail, in his mind gentlemen would not merely give their ſanction to every act of every unblemiſhing violator of the rights of Parliament, but he did think the whole political conſtitution of the country would be ſubverted, the repreſentative form of its Legiſlature changed to a democratic domination, and the mixed character of an eſtimable conſtitution loſt, and ſunk in that unity of all kinds of follies mixed with all kinds of vices. What was the difference between the repreſentative and the democratic form? The *repreſentative* he conſidered as com-

compoſed of members choſen by the people, and the electors, delegating to them the management of their affairs, were left to exerciſe their functions undiſturbed and uncontrolled, not indeed without adequate reſponſibility, till the expiration of the legal term of their ſitting. The *democratic* form was that in which the people in general were permitted to judge of the meaſures of the Government, every one as it roſe diſcuſſing its principle, conjecturing its tendency, and unfolding its character. He would not ſay that the practice of giving the debates of that Houſe to the public, through the medium of the newſpapers had produced, or would of itſelf produce democracy; but that practice would eſſentially change the relations of the people with that Houſe, and of that Houſe with the people. It gave the people an opportunity of ſitting in judgment every day on the meaſures under diſcuſſion in that Houſe, tumultuouſly to expreſs their diſapprobation or approbation—and favoured the propenſity of all vulgar minds, perhaps alſo of minds of no mean endowments, to form premature and intemperate deciſions upon the whole matter, long before the detail of its parts and the character of its principle could be diſcuſſed and unfolded by the Legiſlature. He ſhould always ſtand up for the practice of old times, but more eſpecially when men aſſail the conſtitution with plans for Parliamentary reform, that war hoop of party, which in reality meant revolution. The privilege itſelf was originally refuſed, that what paſſed in that Houſe might not go out of it but by its members, who might be expected not to ſay any thing that would leſſen the authority and weight, or derogate from the dignity, of Parliament. But what could be ſaid, when it was known, that what could not be publiſhed either as a pamphlet, or in any other uſual form, with impunity, was, by a *leger-de-main* trick, uſhered into the world with all the pomp of circumſtance, marſhalled in the column of a newſpaper to ſerve in the ranks of the diſturbers of all order, and the enemys of all inſtitutions. If, at the time the mutiny prevailed in our fleets, any man had aſked him what had been the cauſe, he ſhould have anſwered, "in a great meaſure to the newſpapers." And this was a mutiny which, had it not been providentially ſuppreſſed, would have ruined the country, and laid our navy at the feet of France. He would not deny that it was very fit that gentlemen ſhould diſcuſs whether the war was juſt or unjuſt, whether wiſely or unwiſely carried on, and every meaſure and event connected with it that could properly come before Parliament. But what effect muſt it have on the ſoldiers and ſeamen to read, in the ſpeeches of the members of that Houſe, that they are fighting againſt humanity, againſt liberty; that they are ſacrificed to carry on an unjuſt and unneceſſary war, merely to gratify the whim or fill the coffers of a Miniſter. Were ſuch publications only addreſſed to perſons of judgment, what was miſchievous would be diſcovered and rejected; but thoſe papers were circulated where pamphlets could not, they went into the pot-houſe, and were read by perſons unfitted to judge for themſelves. Gentlemen might ſay, that thoſe perſons ought to be inſtructed. True; but it would never be poſſible to make men in their ſituations good judges on abſtract queſtions of government.—He would aſk gentlemen, whether, when they had any affair of moment under conſideration, they were accuſtomed to call in their gardener, houſekeeper, &c. to conſult with.—He knew thoſe perſons were called in as candidates on an election, and tempting them with the ſame arts by which the Devil tempted Eve, that it was faſhionable to tell them they know every thing, but may know more. He could not endure to hear it re-echoed that the effect was equal on both ſides. He knew the arts practiſed by the ſubverters of governments. They diſſeminated *The Rights of Man*, and afterwards pretended that the anſwers to that work contained a ſufficient antidote to its poiſon. In fact, if he were to trace the evil to its extent, he ſhould find that the practice for the laſt fifteen years of giving debates, by preparing the people by political reading, has been a pre-diſpoſing cauſe why that work found ſuch circulation. If theſe were his ideas of the general effect of that practice, how ſtood the queſtion as applying it in a narrower point of view—the dignity of the Houſe. Were not even the attitudes of members made the ſubject of comment; and their names, like thoſe

of

of actors, mentioned by the writers of newspapers with every kind of groſs, indecent, and illiberal ſarcaſm.—In another country, as long as there remained in it a ſhadow of repreſentation, the mere rabble of Paris from the galleries controuled every thing, and were in effect the only repreſentatives of the people. He had now ſtated his opinion, and if the path was to be ſo opened that it would be free to all kinds of paſſengers, he would not ſay, what would be its effects? He deplored the multiplication of newſpapers; was the Houſe to ſit indifferent while the preſſes of the newſpapers were preparing papers for all quarters of the country, fraught with poiſon againſt allegiance, with ſentiments that would teach the people to alienate their affections from the Sovereign; bring that Houſe into diſcredit with their conſtituents; and leſſen their own virtue, by telling them that the Great have no virtues? He aſſured the Houſe, that he never ſaw a man with a newſpaper in his hand, without regarding him with the ſenſation that he was taking poiſon. Mr Windham concluded with obſerving, that having declared his opinion of the practice, and not wiſhing haſtily to bring the Houſe back to its former uſage, he ſhould make no motion on the ſubject at preſent.

Mr Wilberforce expreſſed his wiſh that all miſrepreſentation ſhould be avoided, in detailing the proceedings of the members of that Houſe. He was not prepared to ſubſcribe to the opinion, that the people ſhould not be informed of the conduct of their repreſentatives in that Houſe; he thought they ſhould, and that they ſhould hold an eye on their own repreſentatives, and on the repreſentatives at large, ſo that at a general election they ſhould be able to judge how far their particular intereſt had been conſulted, and the intereſt of the whole State. When he ſaid this, he did not mean to ſay that this indulgence ſhould be illimitable; bounds undoubtedly ought to be preſcribed to it. He was perſuaded, that if the reports of the debates were faithfully given, the poiſon would carry its own antidote; for he truſted, that ſuch was the good ſenſe of the people of England, that they would not be miſled by any ſophiſtry, however artfully conveyed. At the ſame time that he ſaid this, he did not with that the Houſe ſhould by any means relinquiſh that power which it retained in itſelf to maintain its own dignity, and thoſe privileges which it had wiſely adopted for that end; becauſe, he would venture to ſay, that with all the miſrepreſentations which had gone forth, the Houſe of Commons never ſtood higher in the eſtimation and confidence of the people than it did at the moment he was ſpeaking.

The Attorney General felt himſelf called up, to make ſome remarks on what paſſed in the courſe of the debate, reſpecting a ſpeech which he ſtated to have been inſerted in one of the public papers, purporting to have been delivered by an Hon. Gentleman on the 22d of June 1778. Could he conceive that a ſpeech, ſuch as that to which he alluded, had been actually delivered, he conſidered it as a libel upon him as well as upon Parliament; but whether actually ſpoken or not, the publication of it was equally culpable. It was undoubtedly a part of his duty to take notice of publications ſuch as this; but on ſuch occaſions there was always an anſwer, which at times ſeemed irreſiſtible to juries. It was this—If the Houſe feels nothing, and does not take care to vindicate its own honour, dignity, and character, why ſhould the Attorney General? He was happy to hear, that his Right Hon. Friend had promiſed in future to take notice of any ſuch miſconduct; and he had the ſtrongeſt conviction, that if the Houſe took care of itſelf, they would find nothing deficient in a people grateful for the benefits and advantages derived from an envied conſtitution.

The Houſe, upon the *Speaker* putting the queſtion, agreed to the complaint being withdrawn, and the order for taking it into conſideration was alſo, with the acquieſcence of the Houſe, immediately diſcharged.

Tax upon Income.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved the order of the day for the third reading of the bill.

Mr Nicholls made a ſhort ſpeech in oppoſition to the bill.

Mr Abbot ſaid, that the bill in its preſent ſtate had his full concurrence, as the material objections which had been firſt offered againſt it had been done away in the ſubſequent ſtages.

He was perfectly fatisfied—he was juſtified in ſtating, that the ſenſe of the country was decidedly in favour of the principle of raiſing a conſiderable part of the ſupplies within the year; and it was agreed that income formed a proper object of taxation, without reſpect to the different tenures and duration by which income was produced. The poor were completely exempted from the operation of the bill, and to impoſe an increaſing rate of taxation, on an aſcending ſcale of income, would have been contrary to the ſyſtem eſtabliſhed in the preſent century, and might be conſidered as a ſort of Agrarian ſpirit. He approved of the meaſure propoſed, in regard of the taxation of income derived from our foreign poſſeſſions, and from property brought into the Courts of Law. They were very wiſely comprehended in the operation of the bill; for being fully protected by the country, it was but juſt that they ſhould afford ſome aſſiſtance for the protection which they received. He could have wiſhed that the operation of the tax had extended to the income of property poſſeſſed in this country by foreigners. It would have been, in his opinion, a wiſe and juſt regulation, for they were indebted for the ſafe enjoyment of that income to the protecting arm of this country; and it might be urged as an additional reaſon, that they could not, in the preſent diſtracted ſtate of the continent, place their property in a ſtate of ſecurity any where elſe. The bill conferred no powers which were before unknown in the conſtitution of the country. He thought the apprehenſion which had been expreſſed of the dangers reſulting from the diſcloſure of property, appeared to him to be miſchievous prejudice. If minutely examined, it would at laſt be found to be unſupportable by argument or matter of fact. With reſpect to the matter of fact and experience, there was no novelty in the diſcloſure of property. It was not more than two centuries ſince a regiſter of all real, and a conſiderable ſhare of perſonal property, had been kept in Scotland. The ſame ſyſtem had been purſued in Ireland for a century, and even in this country it was now practiſed in Yorkſhire and Middleſex, yet it was never pretended that any danger or inconvenience had reſulted from diſcloſures of that public kind. A ſimilar obſervation might be made with reſpect to the regiſtration of property, which now exiſted in the Weſt Indies and in America. In Ireland it had produced very good effects, and *he looked with pleaſure to a future opportunity of conſidering the laws of both countries in a cloſer relation.* The moſt ſolid benefit had already accrued to the nation from the operation of the ſinking fund, but the advantages ariſing from it would be conſiderably increaſed by the preſent bill, which went to prevent the increaſe of taxes, and afforded every proſpect of extinguiſhing a great part of the public debt.

Mr Tierney, in a ſpeech of great length, went over moſt of the arguments which he had urged againſt the bill in its former ſtages. He conſidered the meaſure as unjuſt and unequal in this reſpect, that the trader could reimburſe himſelf by raiſing the price of his commodities, while the greater part of the other claſſes would be obliged to bear all its preſſure. If deſired to ſuggeſt any other mode of effecting the purpoſe of this tax, he would ſay, that the aſſeſſed taxes had not yet had a fair trial; and that they might be tried another year in their amending ſtate. Their produce, together with a ſmall additional tax upon convoys and ſugar, would afford the ſum wanted. He thought the collection of the preſent tax would alarmingly increaſe the influence of the Crown. He thought the diſtinction between the commercial and landed gentlemen, with reſpect to preventing the diſcloſure of income, very partial, and could not help ſaying, that if the Right Hon. Gentleman had turned his attention to the ſubject, he could have deviſed a mode of giving the ſame advantages to the latter as the former.

Mr Pitt ſaid, that he ſhould not detain the Houſe a ſingle moment on the principle of the bill, after the repeated diſcuſſions which it had undergone. He only roſe to ſpeak to a matter which had been mentioned, with reſpect to not extending to landed intereſt the ſame degree of ſecrecy as obſerved in the inveſtigation of the income of commercial men. He begged leave to ſay, that he had not declined bringing forward that meaſure becauſe he had not

not maturely conſidered the ſubject, but becauſe having conſidered it with the moſt ſerious attention, he found he could not, with conſiſtency, ſuggeſt any proviſion on that point. The relief adopted for commercial men aroſe from the peculiar nature of their ſituation and affairs, and required competent judges to enter into, and form an opinion on the various details and complicated concerns in which they were neceſſarily engaged, but was far from being the caſe with the landed gentlemen.

After ſome longer debate, on the queſtion for the third reading being put, the Houſe divided,

For the motion 93—Againſt it 2—Majority 91.

Mr Pitt then brought up a variety of new clauſes, which were added by way of rider to the bill.

Sir G. P. Turner hoped the Right Hon. Gentleman had not omitted ſome clauſe in favour of widows and ſpinſters with ſmall incomes.

Sir J. M. Pulteney, *Mr W. Smith*, and *Sir W. Pulteney*, having announced their intention of propoſing ſeveral amendments, the further proceedings in the third reading were, on the motion of *Mr Pitt*, poſtponed till to-morrow.

Jan. 1. On a petition being preſented by *Mr John Pitt* for leave to bring in a bill for incloſing certain lands in the county of Norfolk,

Sir W. Dolben expreſſed his regret that, in a country where timber was ſo much wanted for the navy and domeſtic purpoſes, ſo little attention ſeemed to be paid to the means of ſecuring a permanent ſupply for that demand. Among the various new incloſures which were lately made, there were very few which had been allotted to the growth of timber. To prevent the ſerious inconveniences which were to be apprehended from this neglect, he ſtated that he ſhould take an early occaſion to propoſe that, in all incloſure bills, a clauſe ſhould be inſerted for allotting a certain portion of every 50 acres to be incloſed to the raiſing of foreſt trees.

Mr Pierrepoint expreſſed his ſatisfaction at the intended propoſition of the Hon. Baronet, to which, in whatever ſhape introduced, he promiſed every aſſiſtance in his power.

Income Bill.

The order of the day for further proceeding in the third reading of this bill being read,

Mr Pitt propoſed a variety of verbal amendments which were agreed to.

Sir Gregory Page Turner moved an amendment, which tended to make the higheſt rate of taxation upon annuities of 30*l.* poſſeſſed by widows and ſpinſters, not more than 1—20th part of the ſame. The amendment was negatived without a diviſion.

Sir J. Murray Pulteney, after ſome obſervations on the hardſhip and injuſtice to which landed gentlemen would be expoſed by the diſcloſure of their income, while that of commercial men was involved in ſecrecy, propoſed an amendment, which tended to conceal the amount of their income from the aſſeſſors, and to diſcloſe it only to the Surveyor and Commiſſioners.

The amendment was ſupported by *Sir W. Pulteney* and *Mr Johnes*, and oppoſed by *Mr Pitt* and *Mr Simeon*; and on the queſtion being put, was negatived without a diviſion.

On the motion of *Mr Pitt*, the farther proceeding in the third reading was then poſtponed till to-morrow.

7. The Speaker informed the Houſe, that he had received the following notification from the Bank, which he directed, purſuant to the act of parliament, to be publiſhed in the Gazette:

"The court of directors and the governor and company of the Bank of England give notice, that on and after the 12th inſt. the Bank will pay in caſh, during the uſual hours of buſineſs, all fractional ſums under 5*l.*; and that on and after the firſt day of February next, the Bank will pay caſh for all notes of one and two pounds value, that are dated prior to the firſt day of July 1798, or exchange them for new notes of the ſame value, at the option of the holders."

A meſſage from the Lords informed the Houſe, that their Lordſhips had agreed to the Newfoundland judicature bill, the latter with amendments, and deſiring the concurrence of the Houſe to the ſame. The queſtion was then put on the amendments, which was agreed to.

9. A meſſage from the Lords informed the Houſe, that their Lordſhips had

agreed to the income bill without any amendment, and to the bill for exempting certain perſons ſerving in volunteer corps from being balloted in the ſupplementary militia, with ſeveral amendments, to which they deſire the concurrence of the Houſe.

The amendments were read and agreed to. The Houſe adjourned on the 22d inſt.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Income Bill.

Jan. 8. The order of the day for the third reading of the income bill being *Lord Suffolk* roſe, and, at ſome length read, condemned the meaſure, chiefly as bearing partially hard upon the landed intereſt; it would alſo, he ſaid, be productive of baneful effects in various points of view.

Lord Liverpool argued ſhortly, but ably, in behalf of the bill, as a meaſure founded in ſound policy, as well as economical in point of finance.

Lord Holland ſpoke at great length and with much warmth, againſt the bill, as well in a political as a financial point of view. He recapitulated a number of objections to the meaſure; and contended that ſeveral other modes of raiſing the money would be preferable, even admitting the policy of raiſing ſo great a ſupply within the year.

Lord Auckland, in reply to the laſt ſpeaker, argued with much ability in favour of the meaſure.

Lords Holland, *Grenville*, and *Rawdon*, the *Duke of Bedford* and the *Lord Chancellor*, ſpoke on their reſpective ſides of the queſtion. His Grace of Bedford excited the attention of the Houſe for upwards of an hour.

The bill was paſſed; and the Houſe adjourned till ten o'clock.

9. The volunteer exception bill, the habeas corpus ſuſpenſion bill, the Newfoundland judicature bill, the income duty bill, and nine naturalization bills, received the royal aſſent by commiſſion.

The Houſe adjourned to the 22d inſt.

MONTHLY REGISTER.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

AMERICA.

The Senate of the United States, in a body, waited on the Preſident, on the 12th of December, and preſented him with an anſwer to his ſpeech of the 19th, at the opening of the ſeſſion; it was nearly an echo of the ſpeech, coinciding with him in his obſervations upon the conduct of the government of France, that nothing had been done by it which could juſtify a relaxation of the means of defence adopted during the laſt ſeſſion of Congreſs.

The impeachment of Mr William Blount commenced before the ſenate on the 24th of December; his counſel gave in his anſwer in writing to the charges brought againſt him.

The American papers dated from Philadelphia the 26th Jan. contain a long report from Mr Pickering, the American ſecretary of ſtate, on the ſubject of the negociation between the United States and France. In this Mr Geary is blamed for having remained in France after the departure of his colleagues.

WEST INDIES.

It appears, by intelligence from the Weſt Indies, that on the 22d of October, the generale was beating at Cape Francois, the troops were all under arms, at the news of General Touſſaint marching with an army of 30,000 men, with an intention, it was ſaid, to embark the agent Hedouville, and to declare the independence of the colony. On the following day the agent embarked, and an hour afterwards General Touſſaint entered the city with the cavalry, took poſſeſſion of the arſenal and fort Picolet, which commands the harbour. The day after his arrival he publiſhed a proclamation, in which he invited the municipality to aſſiſt him in quieting the apprehenſions of the citizens, aſſuring them that they had nothing to fear from the army, whoſe diſcipline was ſuch, that not one ſoldier would behave amiſs; and called on all the inhabitants to conduct themſelves according to the laws and conſtitution of the French Republic, which he ſhould ſupport in the abſence of

of the agent, and until the orders of the Directory ſhould be known.

EAST INDIES.

It appears by intelligence from the Eaſt, that Tippoo Saib is aſſuming a warlike attitude, and it is ſuſpected that he holds a communication with General Buonaparte. Little apprehenſions of danger can, however, be entertained from that quarter, ſince Government has taken the precaution to augment our military force in India. A detachment of 2000 men from the Cape embarked in the beginning of November, for the different preſidencies, under convoy of the Sceptre and Reſiſtance men of war.

EUROPE.

The ſituation of Europe, ſo far as authentic intelligence has reached us, ſeems to be much the ſame as ſtated in our laſt. The ſeverity of the weather has prevented all communication for ſome time; no leſs than 14 Hamburgh mails being now due.

The French appear now to be complete maſters of Italy.

The fortreſs of Ehrenbreitſtein has at length ſurrendered. Modern hiſtory ſcarce furniſhes an example of a blockade of ſuch long duration, having laſted from April 1797, to Jan. 1799. This noble conſtancy of the garriſon and its brave commander, Colonel Faber, muſt render its ſervices for ever memorable. By the reduction of this place, the French become maſters of the two Banks of the Rhine, from Schaffhauſen to Duſſeldorff. The poſſeſſion of Mayence, Ehrenbreitſtein, and Duſſeldorff, opens to them the provinces of Franconia, Heſſe, and Weſtphalia; and the King of Pruſſia is the Sovereign moſt expoſed to the danger of their being in the hands of the enemy.

The Dey of Algiers has declared war againſt France. Morocco, Tunis, and the other Barbary States, have, alſo, by order of the Porte, declared war againſt France, and are fitting out corſairs, and levying troops againſt Buonaparte.

On the 31ſt January, the French Miniſters at Raſtadt ſignified to Count Lehrbach, his Miniſter, in the quality of King of Hungary and Bohemia, that if, within fifteen days, his Majeſty did not make the Ruſſian troops evacuate Auſtria, the Directory would order the troops to recommence hoſtilities.

On the 7th of February, the Directory communicated to the Councils the important news of the capture of Naples, in the following Meſſage, addreſſed to the Council by the Executive Directory:—

"The Army of Rome, now the Army of Naples, was attacked the 2d Pluvioſe, by an innumerable multitude, compoſed of the remains of the Neapolitan Army, the Lazzaroni, and Peaſants, all well armed, well commanded, and inflamed by the torch of the moſt delirious fanaticiſm. The ſoldiers of liberty ſurrounded on all ſides roared the aſſailants in every point; and after three days, ſignalized by prodigies of valour, which the preceding victories of the Republicans can alone render credible, all the obſtacles were ſurmounted, and the army eſtabliſhed itſelf in Naples. The energy of the Neapolitan Patriots, ſo long reſtrained, was reanimated with vigour: their voice was heard, and, united with the clemency of the Conqueror, is converted into a holy enthuſiaſm for liberty, the fanaticiſm with which the hearts of a deluded multitude had been enflamed. The Neapolitan Republic was proclaimed, and a provisional Government organized."

IRELAND.

Jan. 22. After the opening of Parliament, by the ſpeech of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, as given in our laſt, a diſcuſſion took place the moſt intereſting, though not perhaps the moſt eloquent, that occurred on any queſtion in the Irish Parliament ſince the year 1782, and which occupied from four o'clock in the evening until one o'clock the next day, in which there were about eighty ſpeakers, the Houſe divided on an amendment propoſed by Mr G. Ponſonby, expreſſing their abhorrence of an union, which was loſt only by *one*. There were for the amendment 105, againſt it 106. A diviſion alſo took place, on paſſing the addreſs, ayes 107, noes 105.

The Houſe of Commons having met, according to adjournment, on the 24th of January, and the report on the addreſs being brought up, Sir Lawrence Parſons roſe to comment on the part which

which echoed that celebrated paſſage of the ſpeech—" Conſolidating into one fabric the ſtrength of both countries." He ſaid the conſtruction of that affectedly ambiguous paragraph was no longer a myſtery, and that it could not with conſiſtency be permitted to ſtand as part of the addreſs. He then entered into various arguments to prove that the propoſed union would lead to a complete ſurrender of the internal legiſlation of their country; a ſurrender of that conſtitution which the vigour, the loyalty, wiſdom and ſpirit of the nation in 1782 obtained; a conſtitution which an important effort of the Britiſh Miniſter, aided by his agents in Ireland, would now preſume to overturn, for the purpoſe of inveſting himſelf with ſupreme dominion in the mock legiſlation which he wickedly and arrogantly would preſume to ſubſtitute for it. He controverted the propoſitions laid down by the Attorney-General in the former night's debate reſpecting the ancient dependence of the Irish Parliament on the Britiſh legiſlature ſo early as Edward the third. He proved, by ſeveral quotations from the records of that and the ſucceeding reigns, that Iriſh members, though ſummoned to attend the Britiſh Parliament, ſtill retained a power of ſaying that they attended not in conſequence of any conſtitutional dependence or obligation, but from a deſire of cementing a political amity with England, and were in every inſtance ſo jealous in the aſſertion of the legiſlation of Ireland, that they would not even allow that the Engliſh Parliament had the right of preſcribing to them a date as to the duration of their ſeſſions. He concluded with moving to this effect, "That the paragraph in the addreſs relative to the Houſe would take into conſideration the propriety of conſolidating the two legiſlatures into one form, and that the Proteſt, the power and the reſtrictions of the Britiſh Parliament be expunged." Lord Caſtlereagh ſaid, he did not feel himſelf called upon to diſcuſs the queſtion of an union. That meaſure was not before the Houſe. As to what was intimated relative to the manner of conſolidating the two legiſlatures, he paſſed it by, with the contempt it deſerved.

Mr Peſtell then made a long and able ſpeech in favour of the motion. The Right Hon. D. Browne, Sir H. Cavendiſh, Mr J. Beresford, and Mr Dobbs, took the ſame ſide of the queſtion. Mr P. Holmes and Sir J. Cotton were in favour of the paragraph. Mr Moore O'Donnel made a ſpeech of an hour and a half againſt the union. At ſix o'clock in the morning the queſtion was put, " That the paragraph do ſtand part of the addreſs:" upon which the Houſe divided,

Ayes for the paragraph	105
Noes - -	111
Majority againſt the paragraph, and conſequently againſt the union, - -	6

The queſtion on the addreſs, as amended, was then put, and carried without a diviſion.

Lord Corry, in the Houſe of Commons, on the 15th of February, roſe to make his propoſed motion on the ſtate of the nation. After making ſeveral obſervations on the magnitude of the object he had in view, the quieting the agitations which now ſhook the public mind, he moved, " That the Houſe ſhould reſolve itſelf into a Committee, to take into conſideration the ſtate of the nation." He was ſeconded by Lord Clements.

Lord Caſtlereagh ſaid the Noble Lord had not even ſuggeſted any ground for the motion he had made. If his Lordſhip called for this committee, with reference to the meaſure lately diſcuſſed in that Houſe, it muſt be untimely, becauſe that meaſure did not call for any further conſideration at preſent. No public object could be anſwered by any declaration of the Houſe on the ſubject of an union; the Houſe had already given its opinion, the meaſure was at preſent aſleep, and all their power could effect no more. Mr G. Knox ſaid, that he, as an enemy to the union, would oppoſe the motion, as nothing could tend more to weaken the oppoſition to that meaſure than ſuffering party matter to mingle with it. Mr Tighe expreſſed his aſtoniſhment that any objection could be made to the motion, when the exigency of public affairs called ſo loudly for it. Colonel Vereker, Mr Dobbs, and Mr Handcock ſupported the motion. Mr Vandeleur oppoſed it.

Lord Corry replied to his opponents, by reading a reſolution to the Houſe, for an addreſs to his Majeſty, to the following effect: " Reſolved, that

that an humble addreſs be preſented to his Majeſty, aſſuring him of our attachment to his royal perſon and government. That we look upon our connection with Great Britain as the boaſt and happineſs of this country. That the competency of an independent legiſlature, to the wants and regulations of this country, has been fully evinced in the proſperity which has reſulted from the free conſtitution eſtabliſhed in 1782, and that we conſider its continuance as eſſential to the welfare and happineſs of Ireland, and to her connection with Great Britain, with whom we are determined to ſtand or fall." After a long debate, the Houſe divided,

For the motion	-	103
Againſt it	- -	123
Majority	-	——20.

LONDON.

Jan. 26. The common-council on Wedneſday, expunged, on the motion of Mr Vandercom, the reſolution of their laſt meeting, in reprobation of the principle of the income tax. On the queſtion being put, the votes appeared, for the motion 72; againſt it 12:

Feb. 12. Yeſterday Meſſrs. Johnſon and Jordan, were brought to receive judgment in the court of King's bench, on their conviction for publiſhing Gilbert Wakefield's reply to the letter of the Biſhop of Landaff.

Mr Juſtice Groſe pronounced the ſentence of the Court—that Mr Johnſon be fined 50l. and confined ſix months in the priſon of the King's-bench, after which to enter into recognizances for his good behaviour, for three years, himſelf in 500l. and two other ſecurities in 100l. each.

The ſentence upon Mr Jordan was, that he be impriſoned twelve months in the New-priſon, Cold Bath fields, and then give his own recognizance for 500l. for his good behaviour for three years.

13. Captains Peyton and Thomſon have each of them been preſented by his Majeſty with a gold medal, for their meritorious conduct on board their reſpective ſhips in Lord Nelſon's engagement off the Nile.

22. Advices have been received of the loſs of his Majeſty's ſhoop of war the Weaſle, commanded by the Hon. Henry Grey, off the coaſt of Devonſhire. Every perſon belonging to the ſhip, except the purſuer, who was on ſhore at the time, unfortunately went to the bottom.

22. An earthquake was felt on the 25th of January in ſeveral parts of the department of Finiſterre, and appears to have extended itſelf to a great number of other departments.

Bank report to February 16.

Voluntary Contributions -	1,654,126	17	9
Aſſeſſed Taxes	837,926	7	3
L.	2,492,043	4	0

EDINBURGH.

The following is an official return of French priſoners in Great Britain, to the 19th of January 1799, inclusive;

At Portſmouth -	10,570	
Plymouth - -	8,393	
Norman Croſs -	4,127	
Liverpool - -	4,000	
Edinburgh - -	736	
Chatham - -	1,298	
Stapleton - -	4,121	
	———	30,265
Officers, Priſoners on Parole.		
At Lichfield - -	66	
Biſhop's Waltham	60	
Tiverton - - -	114	
Peebles - - -	60	—300.

Arrangement of the Britiſh forces, February 1.

	cav.	inf.	cav.	inf.	
	Regulars.		*Fencibl s.*	*Mil.*	
Eng. and Wales,	22	18	12	2	87
Scotland,	—	6	7	9	22
Ireland,	9	16	12	23	18*
Jerſey, &c.	—	9	—	3	—
Portugal,	1	2	—	—	—
Gibraltar, &c.	—	10	—	—	—
N. America,	—	5	—	—	—
Weſt Indies	3	3†	—	—	—
C. of G. Hope	2	5	—	—	—
Eaſt Indies	3	11‡	—	—	—
From abroad	—	2	—	—	—
Total,	40	120	31	42	110

and 60 companies of invalids, ſtationed as follows:—25 companies in England, 4 in Scotland, 6 in Ireland, and 25 in Jerſey, Guernſey, &c.

Excluſive, in Great Britain, of the artillery and engineers, the provincial cavalry not in actual ſervice; and of

* And 37 regiments of native militia.

† Four are ſkeletons.

‡ The Company's troops excluſive.

about 275 corps of volunteer cavalry, and about 300 corps of volunteer infantry.

By the monthly ſtatement of the royal navy, made up to the 20th of January, it appears there are in commiſſion, 145 ſhips of the line; 21 of fifty guns; 181 frigates; and 292 ſloops.—Total, 639.

Feb. 1. This morning about two o'clock, a fire broke out in a houſe near the head of the Cowgate, which had a moſt alarming appearance, but by the timely exertions of the Magiſtrates, city guard, and firemen, &c. was confined to the tenement of five ſtories where it began, which was burnt to the ground. It is ſaid the fire was occaſioned by a ſoot-fired in a chimney on Thurſday, which had not been properly extinguiſhed. The tenement is entirely, but a great deal of property and furniture was deſtroyed. It was extremely fortunate that the wind was from the eaſt; had it been in a contrary direction, ſome wooden houſes adjoining would evidently have caught fire, and it muſt have been difficult to have ſtopped the progreſs of the flames. A ſubſcription is opened for the relief of the unfortunate ſufferers.

3. This day Mr Ewing who lately reſigned his office as one of the miniſters of Lady Glenorchy's Chapel in this city, preached in the Circus, where a crowded congregation attended, when Capt. Haldane was appointed one of the paſtors of the itinerant ſociety inſtituted to propagate the goſpel in Britain.

A [illegible] on the Bank of Scotland, payable to a writer in town, was diſcovered from a letter, and the letter was brought up. The bill was paid at the deſk upon a forged indorſement.

[illegible] light there blew a very heavy gale from the N. E. ſo accompanied with ſnow, that it has completely put a ſtop to travelling, and almoſt every kind of communication between one place and another. The ſtreets of Edinburgh preſented a regular appearance [illegible] morning; many of the ſhops were not opened, nor a carriage or horſe allowed to be ſeen, and very few perſons out.

[illegible] to apprehend [illegible] may have happened on this coaſt. Monday's London poſt arrived at Berwick.

11. From the badneſs of the roads the London Poſt due on Friday arrived on Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock. —In many places the ſnow had drifted to a conſiderable height. Various melancholy accidents has happened, and many lives have been loſt even at the very doors. On Saturday two men (ſlate blowers) were found dead in Leith links. Another man (a butcher) fell into the harbour and periſhed. A man (ſaid to be a fleſh cadie), loſt his life on the ſouth bank of the Caſtle-hill. In aſcending, a guſt of wind had ſuddenly precipitated him into a deep wreathe of ſnow, in which he ſoon diſappeared. The body was not found till ſeveral hours afterwards.—A man in the pariſh of Strichen imprudently went for water to a well, at a very ſmall diſtance from his houſe, but not being able to find his way home, he periſhed among the ſnow.—Two houſes at Gardenſtown were blown down and levelled with the ground: In one of them, the owner, his wife, and daughter, were buried under the ruins. —A farmer in the pariſh of Abington, loſt eighteen ſcore of ſheep in the river Clyde. Owing to the dreadful ſtorm they were driven, for ſhelter, to a ſmall piece of ground on the lee ſide of a hill, on the banks of the river, where the ſnow ſuddenly drifting on them from the hill, ſwept them all upon the ice of the Clyde, which gave way, and they were all drowned.

As two maſons were employed at Beechwood in taking down an old wall, about 15 feet high, having unluckily undermined part of it, it ſuddenly fell down, and buried them in the rubbiſh. One of them was killed on the ſpot, the other only lived half an hour.

On Sunday the 3d, about half paſt one o'clock, as Mr Muncy of Impington was coming to Cambridge, he obſerved a handkerchief upon a ſnow drift, and on approaching the ſpot, heard the ſound of a human voice: upon which he called a ſhepherd who was then in the field, and they found that the perſon under the ſnow was Elizabeth Woodcock, who had been miſſing ſince Saturday evening the 2d inſtant.

"On enquiring into the circumſtances of her being loſt, ſhe ſaid that ſhe was returning from market, between ſeven and eight o'clock in Saturday even-

evening, about half a mile on this ſide Impington, her horſe ſtarted and threw her off, together with her baſket, in which were ſome meat, candles, and other articles which ſhe had bought at Cambridge; that the horſe ran from her, and that ſhe wandered with her baſket a conſiderable diſtance from the road, till ſhe was almoſt exhauſted and at length ſhe ſat down under a buſh, in expectation of the ſnow abating. Being very much fatigued ſhe fell aſleep, and the wind being high, the ſnow drifted over her to the height of ſeveral feet high, and there ſhe remained eight days, without any ſuſtenance except what ſhe received from eating the ſnow. She ſays that ſhe heard the bell ring for church at Impington, Hiſton, and Cheſterton, on Sunday the 3d inſtant, and that ſhe heard people paſſing near.

High Court of Juſticiary.

Jan. 21. This day came on the trial of *James Stewart*, late letter-carrier in the General Poſt Office, Edinburgh, indicted at the inſtance of his Majeſty's Advocate, for ſtealing, or feloniouſly abſtracting money from letters or packets ſent by poſt. The libel ſtates, that, on the 14th of December 1798, Henry Swinton, merchant in Grangemouth, having wrote and addreſſed a letter to Meſſrs Thomas Gladſtane, and Sons, Edinburgh, or Leith, he incloſed therein five bank or bankers notes, for 20l. each, of the Falkirk Banking Company; and the ſaid letter was ſealed and put into the uſual bag, which bag was delivered to Henry Simpſon, the runner betwixt Grangemouth and Falkirk, and again delivered by him, in the ſame ſtate in which he received it, to the Falkirk poſt-office; and the letters or packets contained therein, among which was the foreſaid letter or packet, addreſſed as aforeſaid, and containing the ſaid five bank or bankers notes were duly diſpatched from Falkirk, and received at the General Poſt office Edinburgh, in the courſe of poſt; and the foreſaid letter or packet was delivered to, or taken from the ſaid poſt-office by the ſaid James Stewart, in order to be carried and delivered to the ſaid Meſſrs Thomas Gladſtane and Sons; but, in place of doing ſo, he the ſaid James Stewart did, upon the 15th of December, theſtuouſly and feloniouſly ſteal and abſtract the ſaid packet, together with the foreſaid bank or bankers notes therein contained; and after having taken out the bank or bankers notes, he did ſecret or deſtroy the ſaid letter or packet wherein they were contained.

The trial laſted till a very late hour. Some of the witneſſes being Quakers, refuſed to take the uſual oath, and the Court declined examining them upon their affirmation. Next day the jury returned a verdict, finding, by a plurality of voices, the priſoner *Guilty*. He was ſentenced to be hanged at the common place of execution, on Wedneſday the 6th of March next.

Counſel for the priſoner, Mr Gillies; Mr James Gibſon, W. S. agent.

Feb. 25. This day came on the trial of *Peter Arnot*, *Alexander Hay*, and *James Henderſon*, ſhoemakers in Edinburgh, accuſed of an unlawful combination or conſpiracy to raiſe the rate of journeymen ſhoemakers wages, and in forming for this purpoſe, in the years 1794 or 1795, an illegal aſſociation called *The Tramping Society*, or *United Journeymen Shoemakers*, for ſupporting thoſe journeymen who had, in obedience to the reſolutions of ſaid ſociety, given over working; and alſo for defraying the expence of any proſecution that might be brought againſt any of them on account of ſuch a confederacy, as alſo for keeping up a correſpondence with other ſocieties of a ſimilar kind in England, Scotland, &c.

After the verdict was read, the pannels were ſeverally aſked if they were guilty or not of the crime libelled. They ſaid, *Guilty*. The Court then pronounced the uſual interlocutor finding the libel relevant, and remitted the caſe to a jury, which were immediately choſen. The priſoners being again aſked if they adhered to their plea of *guilty*, ſaid they did, and ſubſcribed a minute to that effect. No other evidence was called.

The Lord Advocate ſaid, as the pannels had pled guilty to the charge, it was unneceſſary for him to bring any further evidence: yet, although this was the caſe, he thought it his duty to explain the reaſons which induced him to bring the preſent proſecution againſt the pannels, whoſe crime, that of entering into an unlawful combination to raiſe their wages, was in the higheſt degree dangerous, not only to their maſ-

ters, but alſo to the public at large, who never failed to ſuffer from ſuch improper conduct.

Early in the preſent winter informations were laid before him of this combination, which was in fact a ſyſtematic conſpiracy, not only in Edinburgh, but through Scotland, and alſo in London, and the principal places in England. The whole were linked together for their mutual ſupport, and a regular correſpondence kept up, which he could have proved upon the trial, had not the voluntary confeſſion of the pannels rendered it unneceſſary. He had hoped there would have been no occaſion for a trial of this kind, but he was miſtaken, and he thought he would not have been performing his duty to the public as he ought, did he not bring to trial perſons accuſed of ſuch dangerous practices;—the more ſo as other tradeſmen were alſo engaged in like plans; and he truſted the reſult of this trial would teach them to give over ſuch conduct, and behave themſelves as peaceable and induſtrious citizens. He could not help thinking the pannels had been miſled by people giving them bad advice—ſuch people were highly culpable, as there could be no doubt it was their intention to take off a ſet of induſtrious workmen from their proper employment, and fill their heads with notions not only contrary to law, but dangerous to good order and ſociety in general. Another thing, he ſaid, had been practiſed, threats had been uſed, and every perſon who would not join in this combination was ſtigmatiſed and held up to the execration of the reſt of his brethren of trade. His Lordſhip next alluded to a trial of preciſely the ſame kind in London laſt week, before Lord Chief Juſtice Kenyon. His Lordſhip read Lord Kenyon's charge to the jury in London, and concluded by hoping this would prove a ſalutary warning to every deſcription of tradeſmen and mechanics, to avoid all kind of combinations, which have never failed to hurt the public, and bring ruin on thoſe concerned in them.

The Hon. Mr Erſkine ſaid, after what had fallen from the Lord Advocate, it was almoſt unneceſſary for him to ſay any thing. He thought the pannels ſerious in their confeſſion, and if he had not thought ſo, he would have declined acting as their Counſel; he had alſo inſiſted that the ſociety ſhould be diſſolved, and he believed it no longer exiſted. He entirely concurred with the Lord Advocate as to the dangerous nature of combinations to raiſe wages, as it tended to corrupt the minds of honeſt workmen, and was attended with manifeſt injury to the public. This was the firſt time ſuch a queſtion had been tried in this country, and he hoped it would be the laſt. He had no doubt it proceeded much from miſtaken notions of the law, and alſo from bad advice. If a man commits murder or robbery, he is ſure he is guilty of a crime; the laws not only of man, but of God, clearly ſhew this; but in caſes like the preſent much miſchief might ariſe from falſe notions of the law; he had diſtinctly ſtated this to the pannels when they aſked his advice, and was happy to ſay they had profited by it. He alſo concurred with the Lord Advocate in his reflections on the conduct of the maſters, and truſted every deſcription of men would avoid entering into ſchemes ſo dangerous in their conſequences. He had no doubt, the contrite behaviour of the pannels would recommend them to the Court when ſentence came to be pronounced.

Lord Eſkgrove (who preſided on this occaſion) obſerved, that as the pannels had judicially confeſſed the crime, it would fall to the Jury to find them guilty—No doubt the Court would take their caſe into conſideration, and award as mild a puniſhment as was conſiſtent with their public duty.

The Jury then retired to the robbing-room, and in a ſhort time returned with a verdict finding the pannels *Guilty*.

THE beginning of the month of February was remarkable for the intenſeneſs of the froſt, and ſeverity of the ſtorm. From the 1ſt to the 10th, the ſnow continued daily to fall, the range of thermometer in the morning being from 20° to 30°. On Saturday the 9th was one of the moſt dreadful ſtorms of ſnow, drifting from the N. Eaſt, ever remembered in this country: A ſudden change took place about two o'clock in the afternoon, when the ſtorm quite abated. From the 10th to the end of the month, the weather was very variable, and often ſtormy. The froſt has been equally ſevere to the ſouth,

fouth, and more ſo on the continent. It appears that the mouth of the Elbe was frozen to the extent of 15 or 16 miles from land, into the ocean, ſo that all communication was entirely cut off for near five weeks.—Mutton, in conſequence of the ſeverity of the weather, roſe a penny per lb. being 6d.; beef 5d.; beſt veal 7d. and 8d.; fiſh, while the weather was moderate, in plenty; herrings ſtill in plenty and cheap, 14 for a penny.

THE Engliſh report for January ſtates, that the ſeverity of the froſts and the ſuddenneſs of the thaws, during this month, have in many reſpects been unfavourable to the young wheats, eſpecially thoſe which were ſown early: In ſome diſtricts we are informed that they have produced a pale and ſickly appearance in the young blades; we believe, however, that no great injury has yet been done. The above cauſes have likewiſe prevented the operations of the plough in preparing turnip and other grounds for wheat, rye, &c. as well as for the making ſummer fallows. In the more weſtern parts of the iſland our reporters alſo obſerve, that leſs wheat than uſual has been ſown, on account of the froſts and ſome other impediments. But notwithſtanding theſe circumſtances, wheat, rye, and barley, continue to have but a dull ſale, particularly in the northern markets: Oats, however, keep up conſiderably in price.

The February one ſtates, that the operations of the plough had been continued without much interruption for ſome time previous to the ſetting in of the froſts; as thoſe, together with the very unuſual quantity of ſnow which has fallen during the laſt month, has nearly put a ſtop, for the time, to the buſineſs of huſbandry. The farmer, indeed, could do little elſe than look after his ſtock—his ſtock, however required all his attention, and, during the ſeverity of the weather, made him but a trifling remuneration. The turnips were ſo cold and comfortleſs, that they would eat no more than were abſolutely neceſſary for their ſupport. Many farmers fortunately had a great deal of old hay by them, and this they were under the neceſſity of giving to their bullocks and weathers, with an unſparing hand. It is probable that large graziers muſt have loſt a great deal of money this ſeaſon. The late ſown wheats ſuffered conſiderably from the ſeverity of the firſt froſt, and the conſequent tardineſs of their growth expoſed them much to the depredation of vermin (crows, pidgeons, wire-worms, &c.): that froſt, however, enabled the farmers to take time by the forelock; they top dreſſed thoſe wheats which had not been mucked at Michaelmas, and manured almoſt all the layers which were intended for wheat next ſeaſon. Some fortunately ſtill further anticipated the labour of another year; they actually finiſhed mucking their layers, and made ſome progreſs in cart dung on their wheat ſtubbles for a crop of turnips in the ſummer. The ſnow which accompanied this ſecond winter, prevented, however, the moſt active farmers from proceeding with their buſineſs; they could neither fence nor ditch, nor underdrain nor marle, nor make any other uſe of their carts and horſes than bring a few rotten turnips to the ſtock. During the inclemency of the late ſeaſon there does not appear to have been ſuch a mortality among the lambs as might reaſonably have been apprehended: ſome few which were dropt during the ſevereſt part of the ſeaſon, periſhed inſtantly on their birth; but Providence ſeems to have ordained that the ſeverity of the ſeaſon ſhould retard the period of parturition; for it happened that a very large proportion of ewes dropped their lambs during the interval between the two froſts.

LISTS.

MARRIAGES.

March 4. Robert Gray of Weſt Muir, Eſq; to Miſs Mary Ann Hamilton, daughter of the late Gabriel Hamilton of Weſtburn, Eſq.

— Rev. Jonathan Rankine, one of the miniſters of Paiſley, to Miſs Jean Auchincloſs, daughter of the late Mr Robert Auchincloſs, cooper in Glaſgow.

— Rev. Mr Hood, miniſter of Nigg, to Miſs Robinſon, daughter of Mr J. Robinſon, Irvine.

11. John Gardener, Eſq; to Miſs Chriſtina Biggs, of Glaſgow.

12. Lieutenant Colonel Gordon of the 26th light dragoons, to Miſs Johnſton, daughter of Colonel B. Johnſton of the 65th regiment of foot.

13.

17. At Greenock, Mr Matthew Galbraith, shipwright, to Miss Ann M'Kellar, daughter of the late Mr Archibald M'Kellar, of that place.

BIRTHS.

Feb. 17. Mrs Richardson of Kelhock, a son.

— At Dunmore, Mrs Carruthers, a son.

— At Ellerslie, Mrs Speirs, a daughter.

18. Mrs Macdonald of Largie, a son.

21. Lady Baird, of Saughtonhall, a son.

DEATHS.

Jan. 19. At Edinburgh, Mr Peter Williamson, well known for his various turns through life. He was kidnapped when a boy at Aberdeen, and sent to America. He sold a property while there among the Cherokees, and on his return to Edinburgh amused the public with a description of their manners and customs, and his adventures among them. He had the merit of first instituting a penny post in Edinburgh, for which, when it was adopted by government, he received a pension. He was also the first who published a directory, to essentially useful in a large city.

23. Rev. Mr Wm Maitland, minister of the gospel at Carland.

29. At Inchture, the Rev. John Millar, minister of that parish.

31. At London, Francis, Duke of Leeds, Marquis of Carmarthen, Earl of Danby, Viscount Latimer, and Viscount Osborne, in Scotland, Baron Osborne of Kiveton, K. G. Governor of the Scilly Islands, and one of the Lords of his Majesty's Most Hon. Priv. Council. His grace was born the 9th of February, 1751, N. S. and married 1st the Lady Amelia D'Arcy, daughter and heir of the late Earl of Holdernesse, by whom he had issue George Wm now Duke of Leeds; present Lady the Lady Mary Francis Juliana Osborne. His Grace married secondly, Miss Cath. ine Anguish, 2d daughter of the late Thomas Anguish, Esq; by whom he has left issue the Lord Sidney Godolphin Osborne, and the Lady Charlotte Ann Sarah Osborne. His Grace filled the office of his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Foreign Department from December 1789 to April 1791. The Noble Duke carried an honourable life, which turned to a considerable account. He was a very sincere friend, and a Nobleman of the most kind integrity and refined manners.

Feb. 1. At Edinburgh, Mr Andrew Scott, second son of Charles Scott of Wauk, Esq.

3. At Edinburgh, David Hislop, son, late of Savannah la Mar, Jamaica.

— At Edinburgh, Captain Crichton M'Dowall, of the 74th regiment of foot.

6. At Newtown, Ayr, Mr John Wilson, one of the printers of that burgh.

— At Pendrich, James Edgar, Esq; one of the Commissioners of the Customs for Scotland.

8. At Edinburgh, Alexander Smollet, Esq; of Bonhill.

— Rev. Alexander Moodie, minister of the parish of Riccarton.

9. In the parish of Clonmell, Jane M'Kechie, aged 127. Her mental faculties continued unimpaired to the last.

PREFERMENTS.

Right Hon. George Grenville Levison Gower, (Earl Gower) to be Baron Gower of Sittengham in the county of York.

The honour of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath on Lieutenant General the Honourable Charles Stuart.

Doctor Thomas Somerville to be one of his Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary in Scotland, in the room of Dr Thomas Hardy, deceased.

Dr Gerald to be one of his Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary in Scotland.

Doctor William Gloag to be his Majesty's Almoner in Scotland, upon the resignation of Dr Greenfield.

Col. Charles Crawfurd, of the 2d Dragoon Guards, to be Lieutenant Governor of Tynmouth and Clifford's Fort.

The degree of LL. D. on Mr John Robison, Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh.—And the degree of D.D. on the Rev. Robert Moodie, Minister of the gospel at Cleckmannan; both by the University of Glasgow.

SEQUESTRATIONS.

Jan. 12. John Macdonald, drover in Dalnadundug, of Lochaber.

16. Henry Andrews, merchant in Inverness.

17. Wm Jack, sometime merchant in Cupar in Fife, late of Stirling at Huton.

18. Archibald Richardson, brewer in Newton Douglas.

25. Wm Barbour of Forcheuse, Meather in Kilbarchan.

31. Smith, Johnston and Co. late of Friday Street, London.

Haddington, Feb. 28.

Wheat, 24s. 3d. Barley, 18s. Oats, 14s. 6d. Peafe, 12s. 6d. Beans, 14s. 6d.

Edinburgh, Feb. 28. Oat-meal, 1s. Barley-meal, 1od. Peafe-meal, 8d.

PRICES OF STOCKS.

Feb. 12.	Feb. 26.
Bank Stock 138¾	139½
3 per cent red. 53¾	54⅛
3 per cent. conf. 53½	53¾
4 per cent. 68½	69⅛
India Stock 163	165
Lottery Tickets 13l. 12s.	14l. 5s.

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For MARCH 1799.

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EDINBURGH:

Sold by JAMES WATSON, No 40. South Bridge,
And by the Principal Bookſellers in Town and Country.
And by T. KAY, Strand, London.

NEW DISCOVERIES.

Dying of Cotton.

By a fcientific application of chemical experiments to the art of dying, M. Chaptal has difcovered a fimple procefs of eafy execution, to give cotton a yellow flamoy colour, more or lefs intenfe. It is particularly by mixing alumine with oxide of iron, that this chymift impreffes on his colours a foft velvety glofs, which is never given by oxide employed alone. He has examined the different procefles by which the fame oxide is combined with the red of madder, to form the violet colour, and has reduced fome very complicated operations to fimple principles. He has alfo explained the reafons why no other vegetable fubftance can be fubftituted in dying cotton to the gall-nut, whatever quantity of it may be applied

To give a ftuff the beautiful red colour known by the name of Andrianople red, they make ufe, in the operation, of kali, or foda, oil, gall-nuts, fumach, madder, fulphur mineral, and many other fubftances. M. Chaptal has inveftigated the action of the three principal mordicants, oil, gall nuts, and alum, employed in dying cotton red. Afterwards treating of the more complicated and obfcure operations of the art of dying, he has furnifhed a new proof of what chymiftry may do for the improvement of the arts, when it is directed by a fimple and luminous theory.

Patent Carriage Steps.

No plan has been adopted for getting conveniently in and out of a carriage, without the affiftance of a fervant to let down and put up the fteps. The invention which the patentee offers to the public, differs very little in appearance from the fteps in general ufe, and appears to effect that object. They fold up nearly in the fame manner, do not occupy more room, ftand in the fame place, within the carriage, and are not fo heavy. They are unfolded and let down by the action of opening the carriage door, and folded up by the action of fhutting the carriage door.

Improving the Procefs of Vinous and Acetous Fermentation.

A patent was granted to Richard Shannon, M. D. of Pancras, and —— Turner, of Vauxhall, diftiller, for improving the procefs of vinous and acetous fermentation.

It is well known that the procefs of fermentation is often checked or carried on too rapidly by the too great cold or heat of the atmofphere; and fince the chymical analyfis by Lavoifier of the component parts and products of fermentable matter, it appears that the evolution of hydrogen and carbonic acid gas is the eflential caufe of fermentation, and that upon the proportions of thefe gaffes the quantity of ardent fpirits materially depends. Dr Shannon therefore propofes that the fermentation fhould be wholly conducted in large veffels, which are to be kept at a proper temperature by the ufe of *attemperators* or pumps of various conftructions, for the purpofe of circulating either fteam or atmofpherical air through the liquor. The fame, or fimilar, engines are made ufe of to impregnate the fermenting liquor with carbonic acid, hydrogen gas, or other elaftic fluids, as may be found neceffary.

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A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF WILLIAM TYTLER, Esq. OF WOODHOUSELEE, F. R. S. EDIN.

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Concluded from page 79.

THE other illuſtrious hiſtorian, whoſe opinions Mr Tytler controverted in his Enquiry, though of oppoſite ſentiments from Mr Tytler as an author, lived with him in the habits of private friendſhip and familiar intercourſe. The laſt time Mr Tytler dined at Dr Robertſon's, he ſaw with peculiar ſatisfaction, Hamilton's hiſtorical picture of Queen Mary, with the portrait of the Doctor on one ſide, and his own upon the other. Dr Robertſon, talking accidentally with the writer of this account on the ſubject of the *Marian controverſy* ſaid, "I have told Mr Tytler, that nothing but a regard for what I conceive to be hiſtorical truth, could have given my hiſtory that complexion which is ſo different from what he thinks it ſhould have worn. Mary was the natural heroine of my hiſtory, if truth had allowed me to make her ſo."

Such would have been the natural vanity of an author; nor was the national vanity of a Scotſman leſs intereſted in the fate of this beautiful and unfortunate Queen, whom her evil deſtiny tranſplanted from the ſunſhine of a gay and gallant court to a barbarous and unfriendly clime; to a clime, ſhaken by the ſtorms of faction, and deſolated by the furious contentions of a tyrannical and ſavage ariſtocracy. It has been matter of regret with ſome who feel for the Princeſs in this view of her hiſtory, that her advocates have not left her cauſe to thoſe feelings, but have puſhed very far her pretenſions to unimpeachable conduct and princely virtues, inſtead of pleading an apology for error or weakneſs, from the circumſtances of the times and the intricacies of her ſituation. Even in the pages of Robertſon, after all that he has allowed of preſumptive evidence for her imprudence, or her crimes, the ſentiment of the reader, let his hiſtorical opinion be ever ſo adverſe to the Queen, prevails over his juſtice, and the dramatic effect of the ſtory is uniformly compaſſion for the Princeſs, and reſentment againſt her enemies.

To him who looks on that portion of hiſtory rather with the eye of a moraliſt than of an antiquarian, her marriage with Bothwell is the moſt unfavourable paſſage of her life, both as affecting the propriety of her conduct in that particular, and as tending to corroborate the evidence produced by her enemies on the great charge of privacy in the murder of her huſband. Of that marriage, Dr Henry thus expreſſes himſelf, in the letter I mentioned above, written to Mr Tytler on the 20th of July 1790, a few months before his (Dr Henry's) death. "Her laſt marriage (ſays the Doctor) was the moſt unhappy, and there ſeems ſtill to be ſome difficulty in vindicating her conduct in contracting that marriage.

Was she seized by Bothwell in her passage from Linlithgow, in consequence of a pre-concert, and with her own consent; or was it by mere violence, and without her having any intimation that such an attempt was made? If I could answer that question, I should know what to think of several other things."

In consequence of this letter from Dr Henry, Mr Tytler wrote a *Dissertation on the Marriage of Queen Mary with the Earl of Bothwell*; which, with the letter that occasioned it, was published, in 1792, in the Transactions of the Antiquarian Society of Scotland, of which Mr Tytler was one of the Vice-presidents. In this dissertation, he maintains, in conjunction with Whitaker and Stuart, that the Queen's marriage with Bothwell was an object which the treacherous Murray and his associates had all along wished to accomplish, and that it was at last brought about by the daring ambition (encouraged by them) of Bothwell himself, who, having seized the Queen on her return from visiting her son at Linlithgow, carried her prisoner to Dunbar, where, by the most flagitious and violent means, he first obtained the privilege, and then the legal character of a husband.

I have placed this *Dissertation* next in order to the *Enquiry*, because both relate to the same historical fact, though in point of time it was the last of Mr Tytler's compositions. Before that Dissertation, he had produced several other works on historical and literary subjects, namely,

1. *The Poetical remains of James the First, King of Scotland*, in one volume 8vo, published at Edinburgh in 1783. The volume, of which the above is the general title, contains a Dissertation on the Life and Writings of King James the First, one of those Princes, in whose lives, calamitous rather than unfortunate, adversity was the parent of wisdom and of virtue, and was cheared by religion, philosophy, and the muses. This Dissertation introduces two well known ancient poems, which Mr Tytler, on very strong grounds, ascribes to the King, viz. *The King's Quair*, and *Christ's Kirk on the Green*. The poem of *The King's Quair*, or, in modern English, the King's Book, is a very striking proof, not only of the poetical genius and imagination of its author, but of a taste cultivated and refined by an acquaintance with the classical poetry of the ancients, and the works of those eminent bards who were his cotemporaries, Chaucer, Gower and Lydgate. The subject of the poem is the passion of James for his lovely mistress Jane, daughter of the Earl of Somerset, who afterwards became his Queen; and the chief circumstances of the poet's life, the misfortunes of his youth, his long captivity, the incident which gave rise to his love, its purity, constancy, and success, are well described under the quaint, but at that time fashionable figure of poetry, allegorical vision. This work, which is mentioned by John Major as the composition of James, and which in later times had been seen by Bishop Tanner in an ancient MS. among the Seldenian archives in the Bodleian library at Oxford, was in consequence of a diligent search made, at Mr Tytler's instigation, happily recovered, and by him now for the first time given to the public, with explanatory, critical, and historical notes. The poem of *Christ's Kirk on the Green* was well known to the public, and had long been admired for its wit and humour; but it had been ascribed, even by antiquarian writers, to James the Fifth of Scotland, the author of *The Gaberlunzie Man*, and other ludicrous compositions. It occurred to Mr Tytler, that the public was in a twofold error respecting this favourite poem; first, in considering it merely as a *jeu d'esprit*, or fanciful display of the author's imagination and powers in the ludicrous; and secondly, in attributing the composition

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to James the Fifth. In the Differtation on the Life of James the Firſt, he has argued, with much ingenuity, that the ſcope and view of the work was political and patriotic: its end, the beſt purpoſe of a Sovereign's writings, the improvement of his people. The Engliſh at that time excelled all other nations in the uſe of the *bow*. James, on his return to his kingdom, was mortified by the ſtriking inferiority of his own ſubjects in that particular to their warlike neighbours. The practice of archery, and of *weapon-ſchawing*, a military exerciſe, had gone into ſhameful neglect during the weak adminiſtration of the Regents of the kingdom. To remedy this defect, a more regular diſcipline was enforced by the young Monarch, by ſtatutory regulations; who tried at the ſame time the efficacy of ridicule in compoſing this ironical ſatire (for ſuch, according to the ingenious ſuppoſition of Mr Tytler, is *Chriſt's Kirk on the Green*) on the awkward management of the bow, and the neglect of archery among the Scots. In the age of James the Fifth, the vulgarly reputed author of the poem, the uſe of fire-arms had completely ſuperſeded the bow as an engine of war. The laws of James the Firſt required that every man ſhould arm himſelf with a backbut or muſquet. In that era, therefore, the ſtrure on the want of ſkill in archery would have been loſt or miſapplied, its irony no longer felt, its ſalutary end no more perceived. Beſides this argument from the general tenor of the poem, Mr Tytler has adduced the internal evidence ariſing from the *language* of the piece, as clearly aſcertaining its date to belong to that period to which he has aſſigned it.

At the end of the poem of *Chriſt's Kirk on the Green*, is a note by Mr Tytler, in which he pays a juſt tribute to the worth as well as genius of our celebrated paſtoral poet Allan Ramſay, and contradicts, from his own perſonal knowledge, the abſurd ſtory of Ramſay's not being the author of the well known paſtoral drama, *The Gentle Shepherd*.

Subjoined to the Diſſertation and Poems, is an Eſſay by Mr Tytler (firſt annexed to Arnot's Hiſtory of Edinburgh, publiſhed in 1788) on the *Scottiſh muſic*. This laſt was very properly included in the volume above mentioned, from its connection with the hiſtory of the Prince, whoſe poems it was the chief purpoſe of that volume to record and illuſtrate; the ſyſtem maintained by Mr Tytler in this eſſay on the Scottiſh muſic, being, that the ſtyle of the ancient melodies of this country was firſt introduced by King James the Firſt. This was chiefly founded on a paſſage in the *perſieri diverſi* of Taſſini, better known as the author of the celebrated mock-heroic *la ſecchia rapita*, who, mentioning the muſical talents of this Monarch, aſcribes to him the "invention of a new kind of muſic, plaintive and melancholy," which Mr Tytler, in this eſſay, ſuppoſes was the original of thoſe beautiful and pathetic airs which are known and diſtinguiſhed as the national muſic of Scotland.

II. *Obſervations on the Poems, a Poem firſt publiſhed in Ramſay's Evergreen.* Theſe obſervations, which vindicate Allan Ramſay's title to the poems in queſtion, were publiſhed in the laſt mentioned volume of the Antiquarian Tranſactions in 1792.

III. *An Account of the faſhionable Amuſements and Entertainments of Edinburgh in the laſt Century, with the Plan of a grand Concert of Muſic (performed there) on St Cecilia's Day* 1675.

Mr Tytler was likewiſe the author of a paper in the *Lounger*, No 16. "*Defects of modern Female Education in teaching the Duties of a Wife.*"

On all Mr Tytler's compoſitions the character of the *Man* is ſtrongly impreſſed, which never, as in ſome other inſtances, is in the ſmalleſt degree contradicted by, or at variance with

the character of the *Author*. He wrote what he felt, on subjects which interested, on subjects relating to his native country, to the arts which he loved, to the virtues which he revered. A zealous Scotsman, a keen musician, an old man with his youthful remembrances warm in his mind, he wrote on the history of Scotland, on music, and on the amusements of former times in Edinburgh; and I confess, that from a knowledge of this circumstance, I read his works with an interest which I should not feel, if I considered them as flowing from a pen where the ornament of the author's ingenuity rather than of his heart.

His heart indeed was in every thing he wrote, or said, or did. He had, as his family and friends could warmly attest, all the kindness of benevolence: he had its anger too: for benevolence is often the parent of anger. There was nothing neutral or indifferent about Mr Tytler. In philosophy and in history, he could not bear the coldness, or what some might call the temperance of scepticism; and what he firmly believed, it was his disposition keenly to urge.

His mind was strongly impressed by sentiments of religion. His piety was fervent and habitual. He believed in the doctrine of a particular providence, superintending all the actions of individuals, as well as the great operations of nature; and he had a constant impression of the power, the wisdom, and the benevolence of the Supreme Being.

His reading was various and extensive. There was scarcely a subject of literature or taste, and few even of science, that had not at times engaged his attention. In history he was deeply versed; and what he had read, his strong retentive memory enabled him easily to recal. Ancient as well as modern story was familiar to him, and particularly the British history, which he had read with the most minute and critical attention. Of this, besides what he has given to the public, a great number of notes which he left in MS. touching many controverted points in English and Scottish history, afford the most ample proof.

In music as a science he was uncommonly skilled. It was his favourite amusement; and with that natural partiality which all entertain for their favourite objects, he was apt to reflect in it a degree of moral importance which some might deem a little whimsical. He has often been heard to say, that he never knew a good taste in music associated with a malevolent heart; and being asked, what prescription he would recommend for attaining an old age as healthful and happy as his own? "My prescription, said he, is simple: short but cheerful meals, music, and a good conscience." In his younger days he had been a good performer on the harpsichord; but his chief instrument was the German-flute, which he thought peculiarly adapted to the expression of those natural and simple melodies in which he most delighted, the Scottish airs. He was one of the original members of the *Musical Society of Edinburgh*, in which he continued, during a period of near sixty years, till his death; during the greatest part of which time, he was a Director of that Society, and felt for its permanency and prosperity that warm and lively interest, which animated him alike in business, in study, and in amusement.

In person, Mr Tytler was rather thin, and somewhat below the middle size. His walk, even at the latest period of his life, was of that quick and sprightly sort which accorded with the activity of his mind. In his youth, he was fond of manly exercises, and often talked with regret of those which the gentlemen of Scotland had lost in the refinement or effeminacy of modern times.

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Endowed with so many qualities adapted for friendship, Mr Tytler had many friends, and among these were some of the most distinguished literary characters of the age. In that number were the late Dr John Gregory, Principal Campbell, and Dr Gerard of Aberdeen, Dr Reid, Dr Beattie, Lord Kames, and Lord Monboddo. A man who lives so long must necessarily lose much of his cotemporary society; but the loss was compensated to him more than it generally is to persons of his age, by that interest which he took in the conversation and in the amusements of the younger people who were the acquaintance or companions of his children.

He was indeed of a temper remarkably social, and found, from the congenial ardour of his own mind, particular delight in the company of young people; to whom, from the store of anecdotes he possessed regarding the incidents, the manners, and the habits of former times, his conversation was equally instructive and entertaining. He was, however, one of those fortunate praisers of times past who are perfectly alive to the enjoyment of the present; whose partial recollection of former times and former joys results from the same warm and active temperament, that still preserves cordiality for present friends, and spirit for present amusements. He retained this ardour and activity to the close of life; and, at fourscore, was as ready as ever to join in the conversation, to participate the mirth, even to enter into the innocent convivial frolic of his young friends and relations. At his country seat of *Woodhouselee*, distant about six miles from Edinburgh, where he saw them with peculiar satisfaction, he had erected in a private and sombre walk, an urn, with this inscription:

Hunc lucum
Carissimortuis amicis
Sacrum dicat
W. T.

Yet from this walk, from the indulgence of remembrance and regrets which it inspired, he would return to the social circle within, with unbroken spirits and unabated cheerfulness.

In domestic life, Mr Tytler's character was particularly amiable and praise-worthy. He was one of the kindest husbands and most affectionate fathers. At the beginning of this account, I mentioned his having lost, at an advanced period of life, an excellent wife, and a son and daughter both grown to maturity, who merited and possessed his warmest affections. The temper of mind with which he bore those losses, he has himself expressed in a MS. note, written not long before his death; with which, as it conveys a sentiment equally important in the consideration of this life, and in the contemplation of that which is to come, I shall conclude the present Memoir: "The lenient hand of time, (says Mr Tytler, after mentioning the death of his wife and children), the lenient hand of time, the affectionate care of my remaining children, and the duty which calls on my exertions for them, have by degrees restored me to myself. The memory of those dear objects gone before me, and the soothing hope that we shall soon meet again, is now the source of extreme pleasure to me. In my retired walks in the country I am never alone; those dear shades are my constant companions! Thus, what I looked upon as a bitter calamity, is now become to me the chief pleasure in life."

ACCOUNT OF THE LATE MARQUIS BECCARIA.

THE Marquis Cesar Beccaria Bonesana was born about the year 1740. He had discovered from his infancy a natural inclination to the study of philosophy; but his genius would never have had an opportunity to display itself fully, if two material circumstances had not paved the way

for a revolution in the minds of the Italians. One of these was, the considerable progress which the moral and political sciences had made at that time in Naples, under the celebrated Genovesi, who, it may be said, first taught the Italians how to *think*; and the other, the powerful impulsion given to the Milanese literature by Count de Firmian, the Austrian governor of Lombardy. Beccaria gratefully and ingenuously acknowledged these two important advantages. He always honoured Genovesi with the title of "*his venerable and learned master*;" and he spoke of Count Firmian as "an angel deputed by superior Providence to recal Lombardy to the glory of letters," and "a promoter of the philanthropy and felicity of his age."

The first work Beccaria published was his most famous performance on *Crimes and Punishments*; a publication which raised his author to the pinnacle of fame, and also exposed him to some dangers. This work was justly celebrated all over Europe; and the author's ideas were so well understood, that we need not scruple to assert, that few books ever produced so memorable a revolution in the human mind, in government, and in courts of justice, as this: so that Voltaire, who almost immediately after published some commentaries upon it, and could affirm with justice, that this little book was in *morals*, what in *medicine* the discovery of a medicine would be, competent to effect an universal cure for the distempers of mankind.

He was accused of having, in his treatise, indirectly attacked absolute governments, and of endeavouring to impair the source of all legislative and judicial power; and he would certainly have been exposed to a prosecution, had not the very same Count Firmian taken him under his protection, and dissipated (to use Beccaria's own words) *the clouds which had thickened round his head*. A consideration of these dangers alienated Beccaria from the study of political and moral subjects, and thenceforward he bent his mind wholly to cultivate metaphysics. Some articles of this kind may be seen in the periodical works which appeared about that time, under the title of "*The Coffee-House*." Among these the fragment on *Smells* is thought to be the most humorous. But the grand metaphysical work of Beccaria, which may be set on the same honourable shelf with the Lockes and the Condillacs, was the "*Disquisitions on the Nature of Style*." His favourite position in these enquiries, is, that nature has implanted in every individual an equal degree of genius for poetry and eloquence; that the art of writing consists, like all others, in the liberal execution of its proper rules; and that, if these rules are once understood and practised, all men would have it in their power to write equally well.

The Marquis Beccaria died in November 1794. He was a great lover of learned men, cordial in friendship, and a general Mæcenas to all Two's in the career of literature. He had been charged with venality in the office of magistracy which he held. His adversaries repeated, on this occasion, with much complacency, that Beccaria resembled Sir Francis Bacon in abilities and corruption. It is no wonder if elevated characters, like his, are exposed more than others to the blasts of envy and detraction.

ANECDOTES OF THE REIGNING SULTAN, AND OF THE RULING CABINET AT THE OTTOMAN COURT.

By Mr Dallaway, late Chaplain and Physician to the British Embassy to the Porte.

A FEW anecdotes of the Sultan and the present ruling cabinet, which I offer as genuine, may not be unacceptable, as various causes seem at this junc-